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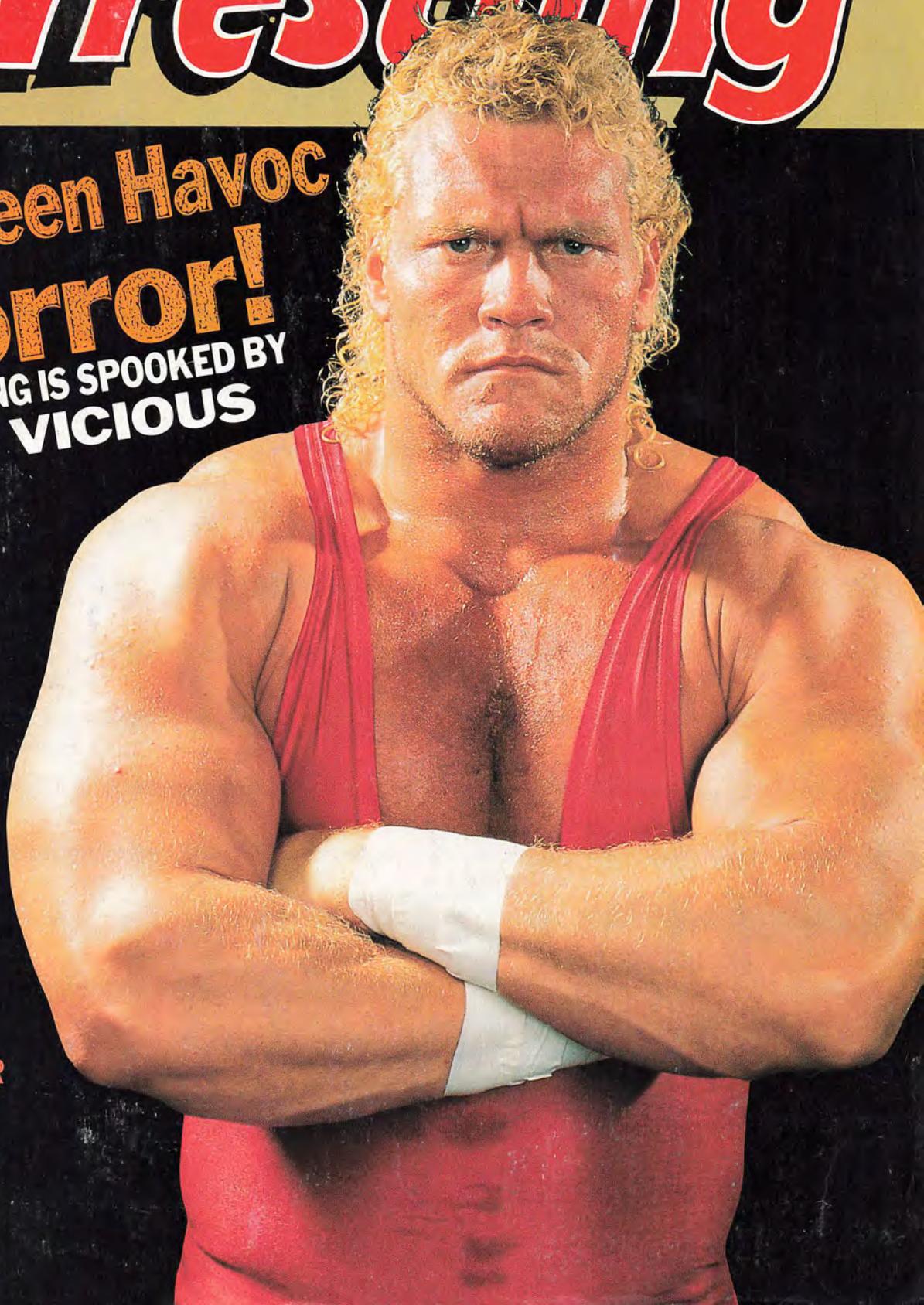
Wrestling

**Halloween Havoc
Horror!
WHY STING IS SPOOKED BY
SID VICIOUS**

**KERRY
VON ERICH'S
WWF MISSION:
PROTECT THE
ULTIMATE
WARRIOR**

**JIM CORNETTE:
"I HELD THE
MIDNIGHT
EXPRESS
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**Team Challenge
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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

Wrestling

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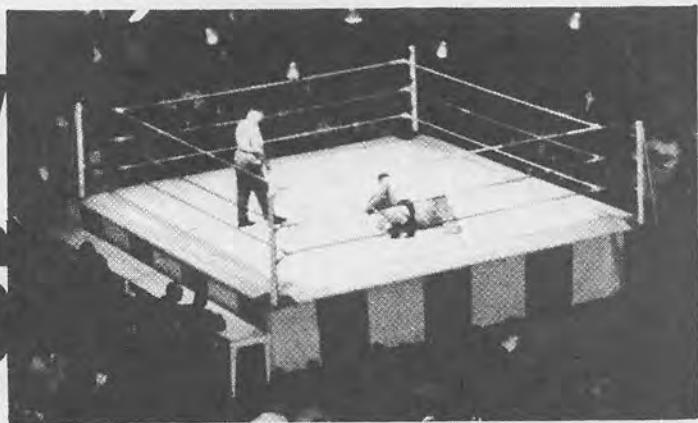
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SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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NOT A FRAUD

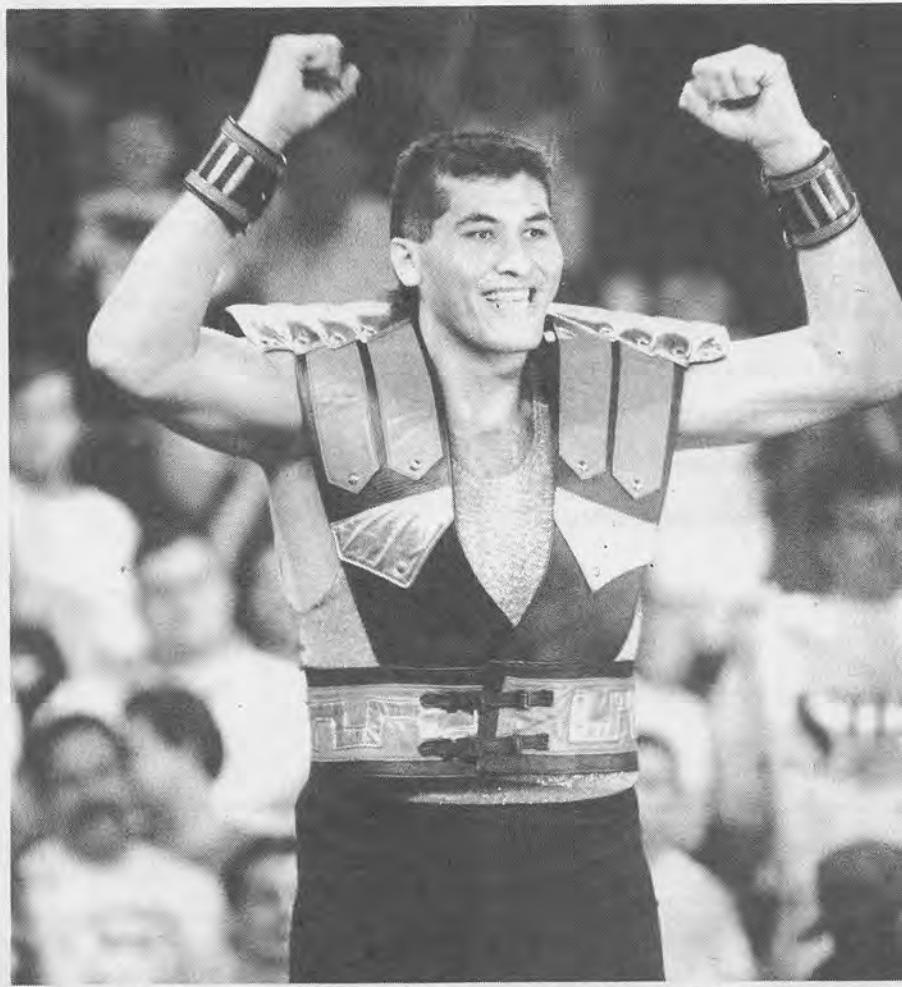
I have my answer to the question posed in your story "Wrestling's Biggest Big Man: El Gigante—Phenomenon Or Fraud?" (October 1990). El Gigante is as long on potential as his body is large. He certainly is a phenomenon.

Gigante may have a little trouble moving around the ring right now, but that's because he hasn't been wrestling

very long. Give him time; he'll be a master of the squared circle soon enough. I mean, this is a man who makes Sid Vicious look small, for crying out loud! (Now there's a matchup I'd love to see: Gigante vs. Vicious. Wow!)

To those who call Gigante a fraud, I'll say this: Have patience.

ROBERT ALFINO
Garden City, NY



El Gigante may be lacking certain wrestling skills now, but reader Robert Alfino predicts greatness for the massive man from Argentina.

TONI-JEANNIE FACEOFF

Reading the "One On One" between Toni Adams and Jeannie (October 1990), I was struck by the venom in their words. Boy, do they hate each other! How long can a feud like that go on before it consumes the whole USWA?

USWA President Max Andrews should set down a hard-and-fast rule: If either Toni or Jeannie interfere in a



If Toni Adams can't control herself, then maybe the USWA should ban her from ring-side, opines reader John Sacker.

match, they are banned from the USWA for one year, no appeals allowed. I'm sure this would force them to reconsider constantly jumping in the ring to save or attack Chris Adams or Steve Austin.

If Toni and Jeannie want to wrestle, let them train to be wrestlers. But don't let valets play such an important role in a match's outcome.

JOHN SACKER
Lubbock, TX



Hacksaw Duggan is impressed by Nikolai Volkoff's newfound love of the U.S. Reader Mel Carson doesn't want any country to be automatically identified with rulebreaking.

ELLNER ON RUSSIA

Eddie Ellner's "Insider" column on the changing perception of Soviet wrestlers (October 1990) was one of the best things he's ever written. It's amazing how quickly some of the Soviet grapplers, men like Nikolai Volkoff and Nikita Koloff, have embraced American ideals. Not five years ago, Soviet wrestlers were the mortal enemy, and were always bad guys. Now they're both good and bad, just like everyone else.

Hopefully in the future, we'll stop automatically identifying a country with rulebreaking, as we did with Russia for so many years.

MEL CARSON
Las Vegas, NV

A BREAK FOR BRUTUS

I was very upset to learn that Brutus Beefcake was injured in a boating accident and that he would be out of action for a while. Isn't it ironic that, once again, he is forced out of an Intercontinental title bout at SummerSlam? In 1988, he pulled out of his match against The Honky Tonk Man due to an injury. This year, he

was scheduled to meet Curt Hennig and was again forced out.

When Beefcake returns, the WWF should give him a series of title bouts against whomever the champion may be. It's the least they could do for him.

ANTHONY SCALA
Brooklyn, NY

COME BACK, ERIC

I cannot believe this! Where in the world is "Flamboyant" Eric Embry? He hasn't been in the USWA for months! Wrestling isn't the same without him. I miss hearing the cheers, "We want Eric! We want Eric!"

BRONWYN PERRY
Dallas

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

I have been a fan of the WWF for six years, and I have never seen anything like the way Earthquake has blindsided wrestlers like Hacksaw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, and The Ultimate Warrior. And what is WWF President Jack Tunney doing about it? Zilch!

Maybe it's time for a new president in the WWF, someone who can handle

things. Like Gorilla Monsoon. He was a great wrestler, and is an expert announcer. He could easily take Tunney's place. Monsoon would definitely take charge of this serious matter.

ERIK LIEN
West Fargo, ND

STING OVER LUGER

I just had to write and express how ecstatic I feel about Sting winning the NWA World title, and it's not because of his comeback from a serious knee injury. Not at all. I've been rooting for Sting for the past two years and hoping that he, not Lex Luger, would win the title. It's quite clear that Sting's change from rulebreaker to fan favor-



Reader Nancy Stewart was overjoyed when her favorite, Sting, captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair.

ite was for real, and I rarely say that about any wrestler.

Let's face it: Luger is too wishy-washy in his attitude to be a world champion. Remember the poll you held in your sister publication *Wrestling 88* (Summer 1988) on who would win the World title first, Sting or Luger? Well, it turned out that most of the fans who voted were right!

Sting should easily become the most popular wrestler in the sport. He's more likable than Hulk Hogan, Ulti-
(Continued on page 52)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

With the number of wrestling promotions that have sprung up over the last few years, it's to the point where you can't tell the federations without a scorecard.

So here's a scorecard. I'm going to clip this to my bulletin board. You might want to do the same.

American Wrestling Association (AWA): Midwest

Canadian National Wrestling Association (CNWA): Alberta

Georgia All-Star Wrestling (GAW): Georgia

International Championship Wrestling (ICW): Northeast, Florida

International Wrestling Alliance (IWA): Western states

Ladies Professional Wrestling Association (LPWA): National

National Wrestling Alliance (NWA): International

National Wrestling Federation (NWF): Mississippi

Pacific Northwest Wrestling (PNW): Pacific northwest

Peach State Wrestling: Georgia

Pro Wrestling America (PWA): Minnesota

Professional Wrestling From Florida (PWF): Florida

South Atlantic Pro Wrestling (SAPW): Southern states

Stampede: Alberta

Texas Wrestling Federation: Dallas

Tri-State Wrestling Alliance: Northeast

United States Wrestling Association (USWA): Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oklahoma

Universal Wrestling Federation (UWF): National

Windy City Wrestling: Chicago

World Wrestling Council (WWC): Puerto Rico

World Wrestling Federation (WWF): International

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NAMES MAKI

SUMMERSLAM PROVED TO be one of the biggest events of the year as two titles changed hands during the pay-per-view spectacular, which was held on August 27 at the Spectrum in Philadelphia.

In the most shocking upset on the card, **"Texas Tornado" Kerry Von Erich** pinned **Curt Hennig** at the 5:15 mark to become the new WWF Intercontinental champion. "Mr. Perfect" had Von Erich locked in a sleeperhold, but the arrogant rulebreaker released the hold and began punching Von Erich.



KERRY VON ERICH

When Hennig turned around to confer with manager **Bobby Heenan**, Von Erich monkey-flipped Hennig into the ringpost. The popular Texan caught Hennig with a claw on the rebound, then spun around and connected with a "tornado punch" for the winning pinfall.

Almost as startling was **The Hart Foundation's** victory over **Demolition** for the WWF World tag team title. **Bret Hart** and **Jim Neidhart** ended up facing all three members of Demolition—**Smash**, **Crush**, and **Ax**—but an assist from **The Legion Of Doom** evened up the sides.

In the first stanza of the best-of-three-falls bout, Crush pinned Hart at the 6:09 mark after delivering an elbowsmash from the second rope. The second fall was halted at 9:56 when Smash was disqualified by referee **Dave Hebner** for preventing Hart from pinning Crush.

Between the second and third falls, Ax scrambled underneath the ring, and was pulled out later by **Animal**. Meanwhile, **Hawk** prevented Crush from delivering another flying elbow to Hart. Neidhart scored with a flying shoulder-block, and Hart scored the winning pin at the 14:14 mark.



HULK HOGAN

In other SummerSlam matches: **Hulk Hogan** made a triumphant return by defeating **Earthquake** by countout in 13:16 (see related story on



PAUL ROMA

page 34) ... **Hercules** and **Paul Roma** demolished **The Rockers** in 6:00 ... **Sensational Sherri** won her match with **Sapphire** by forfeit ... **The Warlord** beat **Tito Santana** with a powerslam in 5:28 ... Special referee **Big Bossman** disqualified **Bad News Brown** for slamming **Jake Roberts** with a chair in 4:44 ... **Hacksaw Duggan** and **Nikolai Volkoff** downed **The Orient Express** in 3:22 ... Sapphire showed up with **Ted DiBiase**, which disoriented **Dusty Rhodes**, who lost to **Randy Savage** in 2:15 ... WWF World champion **The Ultimate Warrior** defeated **Rick Rude** in a steel cage match in 10:05.

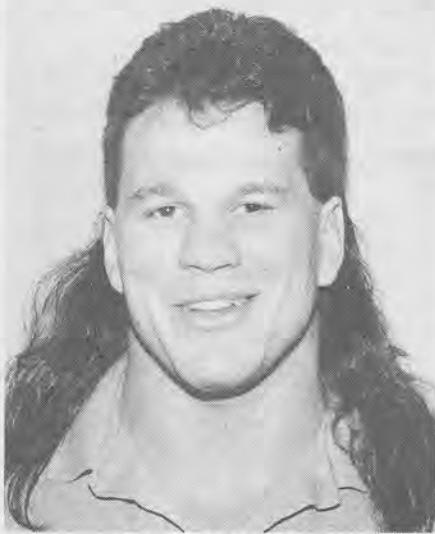
In other major title-change news this month: **Rick** and **Scott Steiner** defeated **The Midnight Express** for the NWA U.S. tag team title on August 24 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The popular duo each caught **Bobby Eaton** with a "Steinerline" clothesline, and Rick pinned Eaton at the 15:40 mark. Now, the Steiners are aching for a rematch with **Doom** to regain the NWA World tag team title.

"These U.S. belts are great, but we know what it's like to be *World champion*"

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

pions," said a joyous Scott after the victory. "A lot of people in this sport think my brother and I are the best tag team anywhere. I agree with that, but the only way to convince the NWA of that would be to take back the belts that **Ron Simmons** and **Butch Reed** took from us. Wouldn't that be great?"



SCOTT STEINER

Incidentally, rumors are flying that the Express is unhappy with manager **Jim Cornette** following that upset. For more on this volatile situation, see the "Hotseat" interview with Cornette on page 42.

Could anything be more shocking than **Sgt. Slaughter's** choice of his new manager? It's **Gen. Adnan**—formerly known as **Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie**! Just a few months ago, these men were bitter enemies . . . You probably won't recognize **Tony Atlas** the next time you see him. The former ICW champion is now being billed as **Sama Simba** in the WWF . . . **Eric Embry** fans, take heart! The former USWA champion has been spotted in Japan, where he's formed a terrific new tag team with **Richard Charland**.



EDDIE GILBERT

The Snowman was stripped of the USWA championship after he failed to show up for his title defense against **Brickhouse Brown** on August 27 at the Mid-South Coliseum in Memphis. According to matchmaker **Eddie Marin**, Snowman failed to appear for more than a month's worth of title defenses. The vacant title was scheduled to be filled in a tournament, but rulebreaker **Eddie Gilbert** was predicting that he'd win the gold long before the tournament ever started.

"It's time for the new guard to replace the old guard," said Gilbert before the tournament pairings were even announced. "The Memphis wrestling scene has been dominated by aging fossils such as **Jerry Lawler** and **Bill Dundee** for too long. It's time for a new breed of stars, such as myself, **Tony Anthony**, and **Steve Austin**, to start winning the titles around here. With friends like those to help me, you think there's any way I won't be the next USWA champion? Ha!"

A tip of the hat to **Randy Rose**, who donated much of his free time to

aiding the Muscular Dystrophy Association during the summer and fall . . .

Lance Idol and **Rick Valentine** won the WWC tag team title from **The Super Medics** on August 18 at Caguas, Puerto Rico. Seven days later in the same city, **Ron Starr** took the WWC junior heavyweight championship from **Hurricane Castillo Jr.**

Buck Zumhofe pinned **Jonnie Stewart** in a tournament final to win the revived AWA light heavyweight championship on August 12 in Rochester, Minnesota, but the arrogant "Illuminous One" claims he won't rest until he avenges his loss by crippling the rock 'n' roller!



ZUMHOFER VS. STEWART

"Zumhofe's win was a fluke," insists Stewart. "That guy's so old that his boom box plays eight-track tapes. I'm gonna bust him up so bad that he'll be joining **Greg Gagne** in the wrestlers' retirement home!"

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

HOW MANY WRESTLERS in this world ever have the chance to step out of the ring and:

Appear on billboards as the spokesperson for a line of athletic clothing . . . Star in a VCR board game featuring one's own match footage . . . Field Hollywood offers for feature-length action films . . . Record a musical single that cracks the charts . . .

Sounds like a page out of the Hulk Hogan biography, doesn't it?

Try again.

Would you believe Madusa Miceli?

"It's amazing, I can barely walk down the street here without being mobbed by autograph-seekers and well-wishers," Miceli told me recently during a telephone interview from her home in Tokyo. "I feel like I'm living another life completely from my Minneapolis days."

Those Minneapolis days brought Miceli national fame, an AWA World women's title (lasting from December 27, 1987, when she defeated Candi Devine in a tournament final in Las Vegas, until November 26, 1988, when she was defeated by Wendi Richter in Bloomington, Minnesota), and recognition as one of the finest competitors the women's side of the sport has seen in years.

But it was all a prelude to her current success—success that most of her fans in the U.S. probably don't even realize she is enjoying.

"I never imagined that the Japanese fans would embrace me the way they have," Miceli said. "It's really quite amazing to walk down the street and see yourself up on a billboard, like you would be plastered up there in Times Square or something. I don't think I'll ever get used to that!"

Miceli is currently wrestling for the All-Japan Women's Wrestling promotion, and has held the IWA women's title since September 14, 1989, when she won the belt in a tournament in Kumamoto. I asked about the quality of Japanese competition and how it's affected her own style.

"I think it's true in a lot of sports, and it's certainly true about wrestling in many respects, that an athlete tends to rise to the level of his or her competition," Miceli said. "The competition in the U.S. is good, I don't want to sound like I'm putting any of it down, but in Japan it's simply unbelievable. Every year, there are tryouts for women to turn pro, and there are literally hundreds upon hundreds who show up. Out of all those women, maybe five or six are chosen. And those five or six have to undergo an unbelievably strenuous training schedule."

"Just before I first came over to Japan," Miceli continued, "I saw videotapes of some of the training methods that these women go through. I was stunned, absolutely stunned. It was—well, let me give you an example. In one of these tapes, which took you inside a training camp, there was this line of women sitting on the floor doing

stretch exercises. They had their legs open, you know, and they had to stretch their heads down to the right and touch their knee with their head, then stretch to the left and do the same, and so on.

"Well, most of the women couldn't make that kind of stretch. And behind each one there were three or four other women. So what happens? The ones who can't make the stretch, the three or four others start pushing on her back and crunching her down and forcing her to stretch down! It was incredible! They started crying, bones started crunching, I was stunned! I almost decided to cancel my first Japanese tour right then and there."

Today, of course, Miceli is quite happy that she went through with the tour. She's enjoying her success.

"I'm here at least until early-1991," she said, "although I have to travel back and forth to the States later this year



Madusa Miceli

for filming of an action movie I'll be starring in. The deal is still being worked out now, so I don't want to give you too many details. Suffice to say that if it all comes together, the world will know me as sort of a female Arnold Schwarzenegger!"

While Miceli admits that her main goal in life is to become an actress, she maintains that she'll never lose her love for the ring.

"Wrestling is in my blood, and I don't think it's ever going to leave. I love the sport, I love Japan, and I love my life right now. Hey—I'm in great shape, and I'm at the peak of my athletic abilities. I have fame, I have success, I have a title, and I have my whole life ahead of me. What more could anyone ask for?" □



GO WITH THE LEADER!

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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

HONOR AMONG THIEVES is a concept scoffed at by those of us who consider honor above all to be the way to go. But in the underworld—and especially in wrestling's underworld—honor among thieves actually exists.

The idea, apparently, is not to rob another robber, not to cheat another cheater, and not to kill another killer.

The idea is something I stumbled upon while researching "Team Challenge Series Scandal: Larry Zbyszko's \$1-Million Ripoff," printed elsewhere in this issue of *Inside Wrestling*.

After speaking with most of the members of Larry's Legends, all of whom felt cheated by Zbyszko (who decided to keep all of the prize money for himself), I decided to see how other rulebreakers would have handled a similar situation.

"What's mine is everyone's," said Ric Flair, echoing the theme that has become so closely associated with The Four Horsemen. "When I was NWA World champion, that title belonged to Barry [Windham], Sid [Vicious], Ole [Anderson], and Arn [Anderson]. We all made a contribution."

Flair said he would never rip off his teammates for mutually earned dollars. Somehow, I believed him. Flair *seemed* sincere. But rip off Lex Luger or Sting?

"In a minute," Flair laughed. "I'd steal the time of day from those clowns!"

I then went to Col. DeBeers, one of the most notorious bad men in wrestling history. DeBeers was in the Team Challenge Series; he was a member of Sarge's Snipers, which finished in third place, and he was shocked by Zbyszko's actions.

(Continued on page 56)

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

THREE ARE TWO types of readers: Those who have faithfully read "The Insider" each month for the past 5½ years and who understand the subtleties at work in this column, and those who do not.

Faithful readers can recall, for instance, several columns I wrote in support of Hulk Hogan and the Von Erichs despite my overwhelming, years-long contempt for them. These readers can distinguish between black and white and understand there is often more to wrestling than meets the eye.

Unfortunately, the ability to think abstractly, to criticize and congratulate at the appropriate times, is lacking in the majority of readers. For them, "The Insider" is nothing but an ignorant scandal sheet written by "that butthead Ellner" who ridicules The Rock 'n' Roll Express for no apparent reason.

Readers know I confine my comments to the ring and ring-related activities. I may not like what you are or what you represent, and I will tell you about it, but I will also defend with my life your right to be it.

So it is with a clear understanding of the precedent I might set that I issue the following order:



Sapphire should be banned from the sport, in Eddie Ellner's opinion, because she's a fan and fans should remain exactly that—fans.

Ban Sapphire!

I don't take this banning stuff lightly. Whenever there is a groundswell of support to ban a dangerous move (like the piledriver, as has happened on numerous occasions) or a particularly brutal team (like the early Road Warriors), I write vehemently in opposition.

It's the job of professional wrestlers to find weapons to defend against dangerous moves and dangerous opponents. You can't arbitrarily ban something because it is too intimidating.

But Sapphire—and people like her (Hillbilly Jim springs quickly to

mind)—is a different story. She presents a major threat to the continued health of pro wrestling.

Let us quickly examine her résumé: Sapphire was spotted one day at ringside involved in a series of strange gyrations brought upon by the presence of Dusty Rhodes. If that in itself didn't warrant commitment to a state institution, she was soon seen snuggling up to Rhodes (a difficult act given their respective girths, but one that endeared her to him and the public).

It wasn't long before Rhodes and the WWF promoters bought

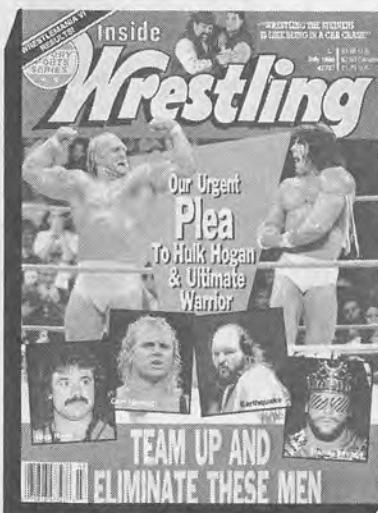
(Continued on page 58)

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A-ON-ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



EVER HAVE ONE of those days when you wake up and you don't feel like yourself? This has been one of those days.

It started at about 10:30 a.m. when I rolled out of bed. The previous evening, Rick and Scott Steiner had won the U.S. tag team title from The Midnight Express at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey, so there was some late-night journalistic hobnobbing to be done.

Now, I'm not exactly one to get caught up in the groupie scene, but I was interested in seeing how two clean-cut boys like the Steiners celebrate a big victory. The answer: just like anyone else.

Well, I wasn't exactly fit to face

Missy Hyatt (above left) won the "Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar" competition, but Liz Hunter's choice would have been her namesake, Elizabeth (above right).

the world this morning, but when I went into the kitchen, there wasn't a cup of coffee to be found. Not a drop. Then the cat missed the litterbox and I found myself scrubbing the bathroom floor at the ungodly hour of 10:45.

At 11 o'clock, the doorbell rang. It was the Federal Express guy with a delivery from the office: magazines, story assignments, and a little note attached. "Liz," it read, "here are the results of the 'Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar' competition. Thought you might

be interested. Craig."

Interested? Well, count me among those who looks forward to the biennial competition that appears in *Wrestling Superstars*, our sister publication.

And this year there was a twist: For the first time, women were included in the balloting.

Some might say it's about time, and I'm among those, but there's also something to be said for tradition and the little clique aspect that this balloting took on. It was a chance for us girls to get into the act and have something all to ourselves.

But let's face it: This is the '90s, and there's nothing wrong *(Continued on page 60)*

Inside Wrestling

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



SWEDE HANSON

This rugged, raw-boned rulebreaker was a member of a feared tag team as he and Rip Hawk barnstormed through the wrestling world from the late '50s to the early '60s. Later in his career, Hanson became a contender in

the WWF, where he engaged in classic World title matches against Bob Backlund in 1979. Today, Swede lives comfortably with his family in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he is in the construction business.



JOS LeDUC

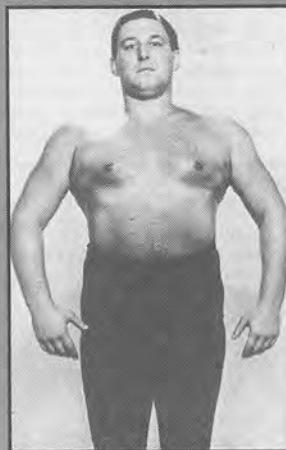
A vicious rulebreaker for more than two decades, LeDuc is currently wrestling for independent federations throughout his native country of Canada. His last U.S. appearances were in 1988, when he was managed for a short time by Frenchy Martin in the WWF. "The wrestlers of the major federations are scared of me," howled the bug-eyed veteran. "I can't get a fair shot at being a world champion, so I'd rather wrestle near my home!"



SAM MUCHNICK

This tough administrator retired from the sport in 1982 after a successful run as the president of the NWA. Many fans remember Muchnick as a man who constantly strived to see the rules of the sport upheld. The veteran promoter, who

celebrated his 85th birthday on August 22 at his home in St. Louis, Missouri, had harsh words for the situation in the NWA today: "If I were president, The Four Horsemen would have been gone long ago!"



STAN KOWALSKI

The "Big K" (who was also known as "Krippler" Karl Kovacs) made wrestling history in August 1960 as he and Tiny Mills were named the first AWA World tag team champions upon formation of the federation. Last seen in the

late '80s as a very opinionated commentator on AWA wrestling broadcasts, Kowalski now lives in a suburb of Minneapolis, where he is an active member of his town's chamber of commerce.

INSIDE WRESTLING

173

CAPSULE PROFILE

THE "ENFORCER" IS the current NWA TV champion ("I'll hold this belt for as long as I want") ... A member of the famous Anderson wrestling family, which also includes Ole, Gene, Lars, and Brad ("The greatest wrestling family of all time, bar none") ... Lost his first professional match in January 1982 to veteran Bob Armstrong in Pensacola, Florida ("He astounded me with his experience and smoothness") ... Manager "Precious" Paul Ellering saw the potential in the young Anderson, and matched Anderson with Matt Borne in 1983 ("We would've been a classic duo, but Ellering got sidetracked with *The Road Warriors*") ... Started a successful career as a solo grappler in Georgia later that year ("Just carrying on the Anderson tradition of greatness") ... Began wrestling with Ole in the mid-'80s ("Why not team up with the best?") ... Ole and Arn captured the Georgia National tag team title from Thunderbolt Patterson and Manny Fernandez in May 1985 ("My first tag team title, and I was never prouder") ... Defeated Wahoo McDaniel in a tournament final to capture his first NWA TV title in January 1986 ("That fat old Indian had no business in the ring with a superstar such as myself") ... Later that year, the first edition of The Four

ARN ANDERSON

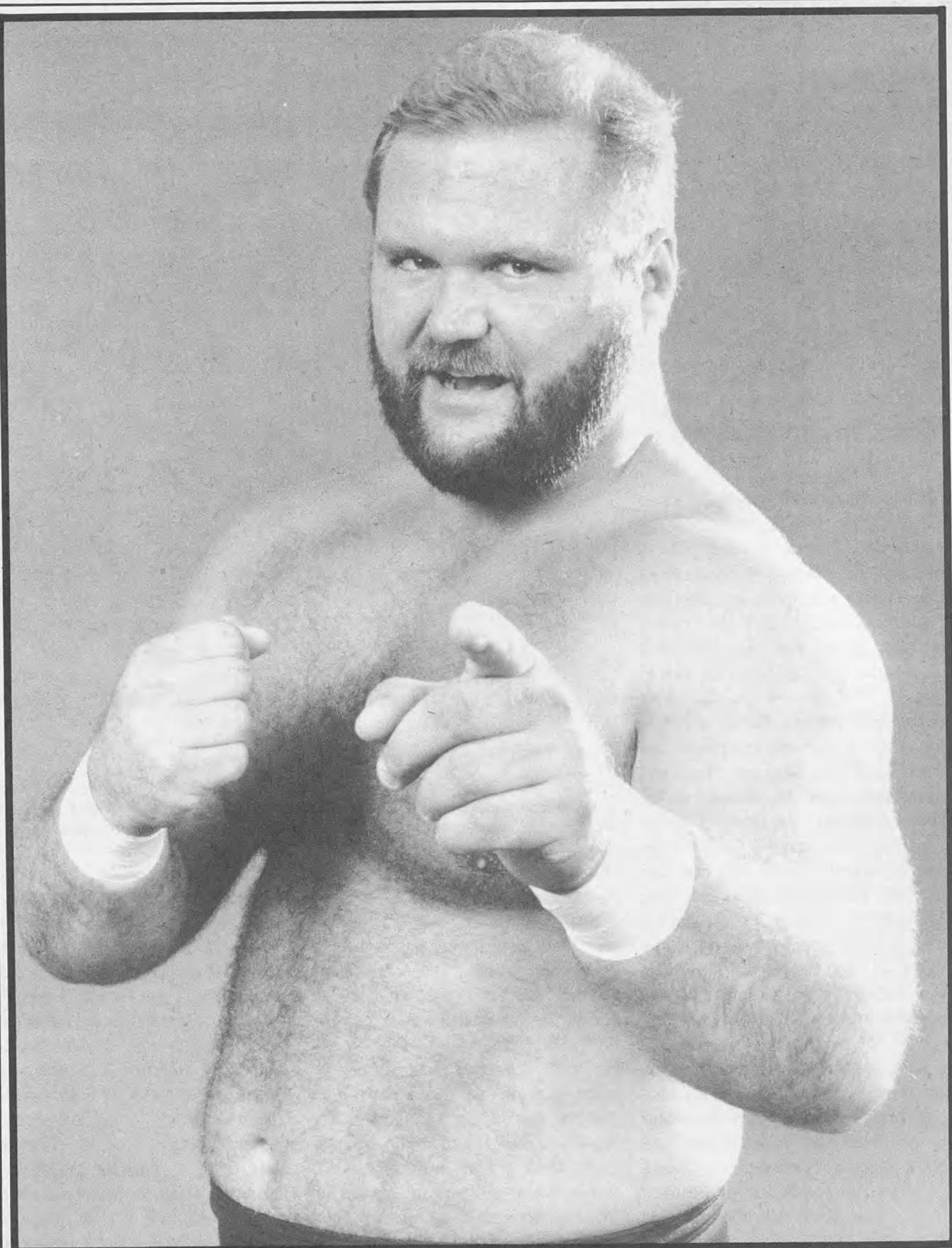


Arn Anderson plants a boot to Junkyard Dog's midsection. Currently the NWA TV champion, Anderson would love to drive The Dudes With Attitudes out of the sport.

Horsmen was formed ("It was me, Ric Flair, Ole, and Tully Blanchard. What a unit!") ... When he began teaming with Blanchard, it was the birth of a classic tag team ("We immediately clicked") ... Tully and Arn defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express for the NWA World tag team title in September 1987 ("Beating those undersized wimps was so easy it was scary") ... Lost the title to Lex Luger and Barry Windham, but regained the belts in April 1988 ("That was the match where Barry became a Horseman. What a moment!") ... Arn and Tully shocked the sport by quitting the Horsmen after losing the belts to The Midnight Express ("There was nothing more to do in the NWA") ... The pair

ventured to the WWF, and Bobby Heenan led "The Brain Busters" to a World tag team title victory over Demolition in July 1989 ("Further proof that we were the greatest team in history") ... Arn left the WWF after a dispute with Heenan later that year ("Our success was despite Heenan, not because of him") ... Anderson returned to the NWA as a fan favorite late in 1989 ("I fooled everybody! I was just coming back to reform the Horsmen") ... Won the TV title from The Great Muta on January 2 ("Muta was good, but he was no match for my many skills") ... Continues to hold the TV belt, but rarely defends it ("This is my belt to do with as I please") □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



ARN ANDERSON



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ROCHESTER, NY By Tom Breslawski



TUGBOAT
vs.
EARTHQUAKE



Hacksaw Duggan was in Tugboat's corner and Jimmy Hart was in Earthquake's. As Tugboat spoke with Duggan, Earthquake knocked him out of the ring. After Tugboat got back in, Earthquake kept him down for several minutes with an armbar. After Tugboat gave Earthquake an avalanche, Hart climbed on the ring apron and tossed Earthquake his megaphone, which 'Quake used to smash Tugboat. But Duggan hit Earthquake with his 2x4, allowing Tugboat to get the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Jim Brunzell pinned Buddy Rose . . . Paul Roma pinned Barry O . . . Koko B. Ware beat Lanny Poffo . . . The Honky Tonk Man & Greg Valentine defeated The Bushwhackers . . . Jimmy Snuka beat The Barbarian by disqualification.

UNIONDALE, NY By Burton Crane



BIG BOSSMAN
vs.
TED DiBIASE



Bossman stormed the ring, causing DiBiase and his valet, Virgil, to flee in terror. DiBiase finally gained the advantage when he rolled out of the way of a Bossman big splash. He locked a sleeper on Bossman, but Bossman reached the ropes and forced a break. DiBiase whipped Bossman into the ropes and attempted a karate chop, but Bossman ducked, avoided the blow, and caught DiBiase with an inside cradle to score the winning pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Kerry Von Erich & The Ultimate Warrior downed Curt Hennig & Rick Rude . . . The Barbarian destroyed Ron Garvin . . . Jimmy Snuka beat Hercules . . . Steve Lombardi pinned Jose Luis Rivera . . . The Orient Express defeated Marty Jannetty & Shane Douglas . . . Buddy Rose pinned Pez Whatley.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL By Ron Lemieux



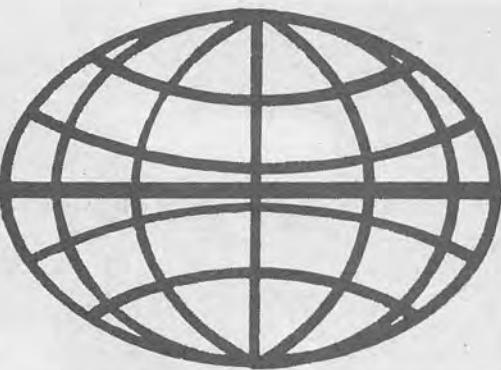
STAN HANSEN
vs.
TOMMY RICH



Hansen started out by brutally kicking and punching Rich. "Wildfire" mounted a brief offensive attack, which included a Lou Thesz press. But as Rich hit Hansen with the move, Hansen dropped him throat-first onto the ropes. Rich collapsed, struggled to his feet, and was met with a stunning Hansen "lariat" clothesline that led to a pinfall.

OTHER BOUTS: Mike Rotundo pinned The Iron Sheik . . . Tracey Smothers & Steve Armstrong beat Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin . . . Brian Pillman pinned Buddy Landell . . . Sting pinned Ric Flair . . . El Gigante, Junkyard Dog, & Lex Luger defeated Ric Flair, Sid Vicious, & Arn Anderson.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



ATLANTA, GA By Ricie Head



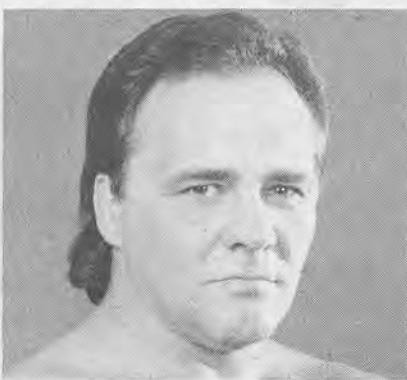
STING
VS.
RIC FLAIR



Fans at The Omni cheered wildly as NWA World champion Sting came to the ring for a title defense against ex-champion Flair. At a crucial point in the match, Sting had Flair in a figure-four leglock when Arn Anderson distracted referee Nick Patrick. That allowed Barry Windham to enter the ring and knock Sting off Flair. Despite help from his Four Horsemen cohorts, Flair could not follow up on his good fortune, and Sting pinned him with a small package.

OTHER BOUTS: Mike Rotundo pinned The Iron Sheik . . . Brian Pillman pinned Buddy Landell . . . Doom defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express . . . Stan Hansen pinned Norman . . . Junkyard Dog, Lex Luger, & El Gigante beat Sid Vicious, Arn Anderson, & Barry Windham.

ROCHESTER, MN By Kelly Michaels



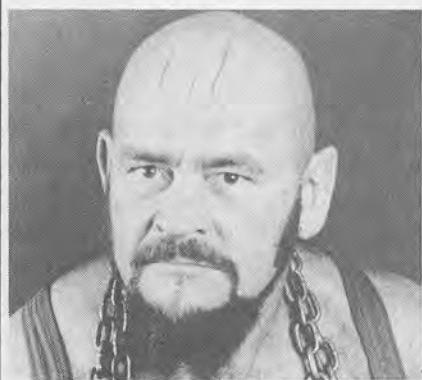
LARRY ZBYSZKO
VS.
HARLEY RACE



Zbyszko reluctantly put his AWA World championship on the line against the seven-time former NWA World titlist. Both men displayed fine technical skills, though Zbyszko has more of a tendency to brawl. Out on the arena floor, Race attempted to piledrive Zbyszko, who turned it around and backdropped Race. As they fought outside the ring, referee Gary DeRusha declared a double-countout.

OTHER BOUTS: The Trooper & D.J. Peterson defeated The Destruction Crew . . . Buck Zumhofe pinned Jonnie Stewart . . . Tommy Jammer beat Pete Pistulka . . . The Russian Brute pinned Kent Carlson . . . Tony DeNucci & Steve Berg defeated The Texas Hangmen by disqualification . . . Curtis Hughes beat Jamie Magnum.

WALL TOWNSHIP, NJ By Ivan Rothstein



IVAN KOLOFF
VS.
KEN PATERA



Both Koloff and Patera have won many titles throughout their careers, but titles were probably the furthest thing from their minds on this occasion. This match was a wild brawl from the start, and the referee was unable to bring the match under control. The two veterans used chains, chairs, and a ringside table to wreak havoc on each other on the way to a brutal double-countout decision.

OTHER BOUTS: The Motor City Hit-men defeated Cactus Jack & Mondo Kleen . . . The Wild Thing pinned Tony Roma . . . Tiger Jackson & Misty Blue Simmes defeated Linda Dallas & Little Louie . . . King Kaluha pinned The Cheetah Kid . . . Mike Sharpe pinned Tom Brandi . . . Wahoo McDaniel defeated Manny Fernandez by countout . . . B. Brian Blair beat Larry Zbyszko by disqualification.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

DALLAS, TX: Picked up a rental car at the airport, drove into town, and half expected to see yellow ribbons, lots of 'em, tied around old oak trees. Didn't see it. Drove up into Denton and the Von Erich spread was still standing. Glory be! The reports of widespread mourning in Texas over the departure of Kerry Von Erich are, needless to say, erroneous. Now *there's* a word you'll rarely see in a Matt Brock column. The facts are that maybe two years ago, or four years ago, and definitely six years ago, this state would have been in an uproar over any Von Erich leaving for the World Wrestling Federation. But this is 1990, and all the fans care about is Chris and Toni Adams vs. Steve Austin and Jeannie, The Snowman, Angel of Death, Jeff Jarrett, Jerry Lawler, and Bill Dundee. Sure, the Von Erichs still have a place in their hearts, but the Sportatorium is no longer exclusive Von Erich property like it once was. Times change. David died. Mike died. Kerry and Kevin both suffered serious injuries. Chris might turn out to be something, but in my mind he's way too small to carry the Von Erich flame. Meanwhile, most people I talked to said Kerry going to the WWF might be just the thing to reignite that flame, even though he's known almost exclusively as the "Texas Tornado." Well, these magazines know him as Kerry Von Erich, and any wrestling fan with a hint of knowledge knows that he's a former NWA World champion. As for these people down here, well, when Kerry tours with the WWF, you can be sure there'll be some pretty large turnouts at Reunion Arena and wherever else he appears. Maybe you can call this a story of hometown boy makes good. In my mind, this hometown boy already made good, and now he's trying to get what's rightfully his. Here's to the old times.

ATLANTA, GA: The big news on Peachtree Street—brace yourself, Lou Thesz, ol' buddy—isn't Sting winning the NWA World title or the battle between The Four Horsemen and The Dudes With Attitudes. It isn't The Midnight Express vs. Brian Pillman and Tom Zenk or the



MISSY HYATT

return of Stan Hansen. "Missy Hyatt has red hair! Can you believe it?" a pock-marked adolescent male screamed into my right ear, the good one, just as I made my way into one of the upper seats of The Omni. That's it: Missy Hyatt, the blond bombshell with curves that would make Saddam Hussein give Allah the boot, now has red hair. How did it happen? When did it happen? Why did she do it? Do they get wrestling in Iraq? Folks, Missy Hyatt is the most insignificant character in the NWA. Her little segments with Jim Ross on the NWA's *Main Event* program are pure gibberish. She is nothing, she means nothing, and just because she was voted the ridiculous title of

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

"Wrestling's Sexiest Superstar" doesn't make her any more important. My Aunt Beatrice used to change her hair color every day, gray one day, purple the next. Yeah, purple. The Brock clan has some strange characters. Folks, concentrate on the wrestling. There's some great stuff going on. Unbelievable! Bartender, make it a double.

ROCHESTER, MN: Everybody says it had to happen, but I don't think so. When The Trooper and D.J. Peterson beat The Destruction Crew for the AWA World tag team title, I was more shocked than I was when Sting beat Flair for the NWA strap. Face it: Enos and Bloom had held the belts since October 1 of last year. They were getting better and better and more close-knit as a team. Trooper and Peterson are a good team, but the Crew has become top-notch. As it turned out, it took a little trickery on Peterson's part to win the belts. The Crew had this match wrapped up: Enos lifted Trooper, Bloom went to the top rope for his "wrecking ball" clothesline, and

Peterson shook the ropes just enough to make Bloom lose his balance. Trooper small-package Enos for the win. Strange game this wrestling. The Destruction Crew, one of the most crooked teams in the sport, gets beaten at their own game. I guess that's the only way to beat them. "What goes around comes around," Peterson told me. Sharp wit, this Peterson. Well, we shall see. A Brock prediction: The Crew will have the belts back by November or my Aunt Beatrice isn't a blonde.

PHILADELPHIA, PA: Hogan vs. Earthquake. Warrior vs. Rude. Von Erich vs. Hennig. Vince McMahon Jr. screaming his face off. SummerSlam '90 wasn't much different from SummerSlam '89 and SummerSlam '88.



THE SPECTRUM

The fans packed the Spectrum, the WWF hung banners all over the place, and everybody waited to see whether Hogan could get revenge on Earthquake. Well, what did you think would happen? Hogan, a determined man who was the victim of a cowardly attack, proved to the world that there's still a lot of champion left in him. Rude, meanwhile, proved that he's not of world-championship caliber, although nobody ever thought he was. The Intercontinental belt is about the limit for this guy. As for Von Erich, a.k.a. the "Texas Tornado," well, obviously his move to the WWF was a smart one. As for SummerSlam and these big pay-per-view extravaganzas, these made for TV supershows, give me Hansen vs. Gordy in a barn any day of the week. Next up is The Survivor Series, another meaningless WWF pay-per-view card. Then we get The Royal Rumble. Message to McMahon Jr.: Isn't there more to life than money? □



D.J. PETERSON & THE TROOPER

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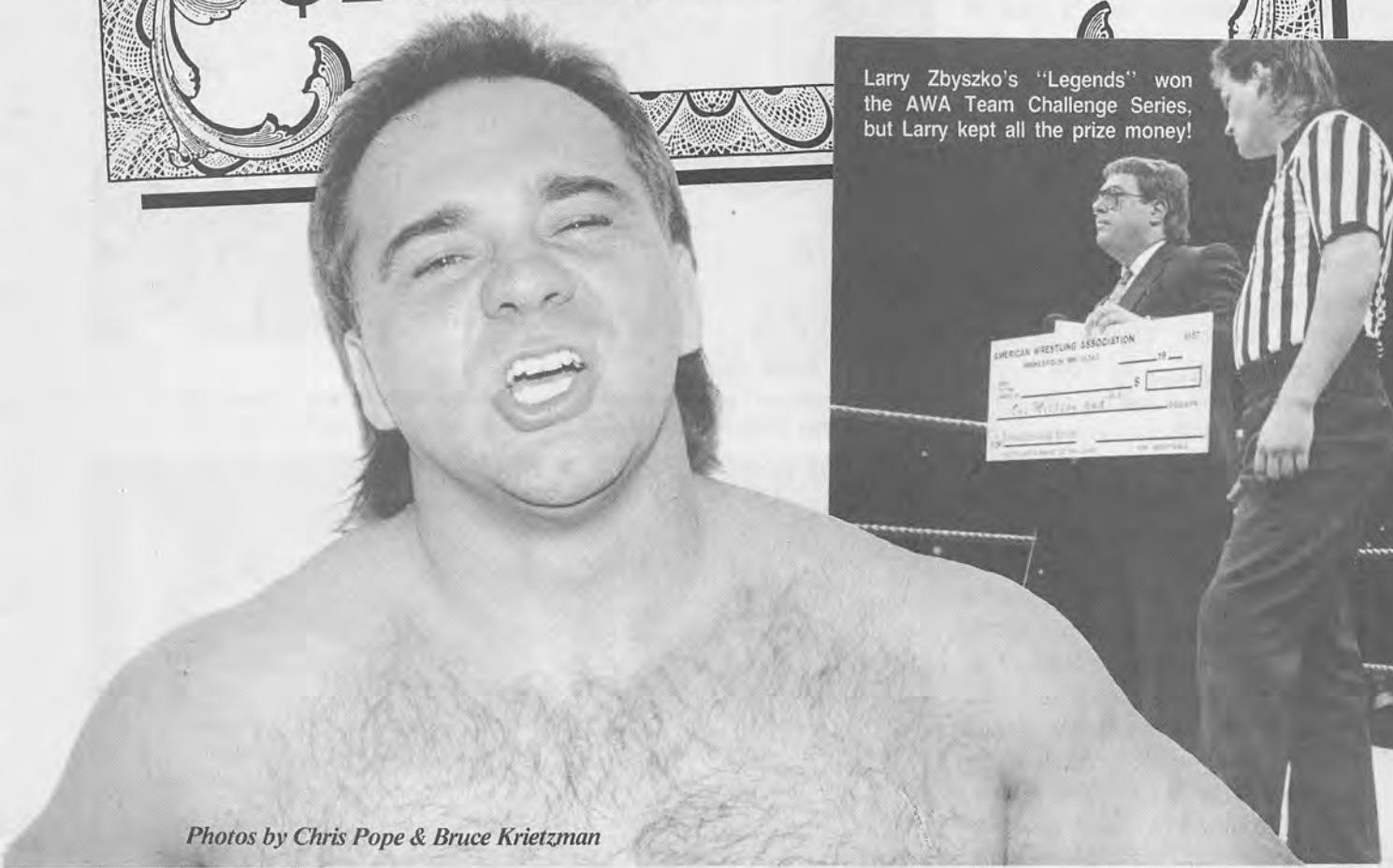
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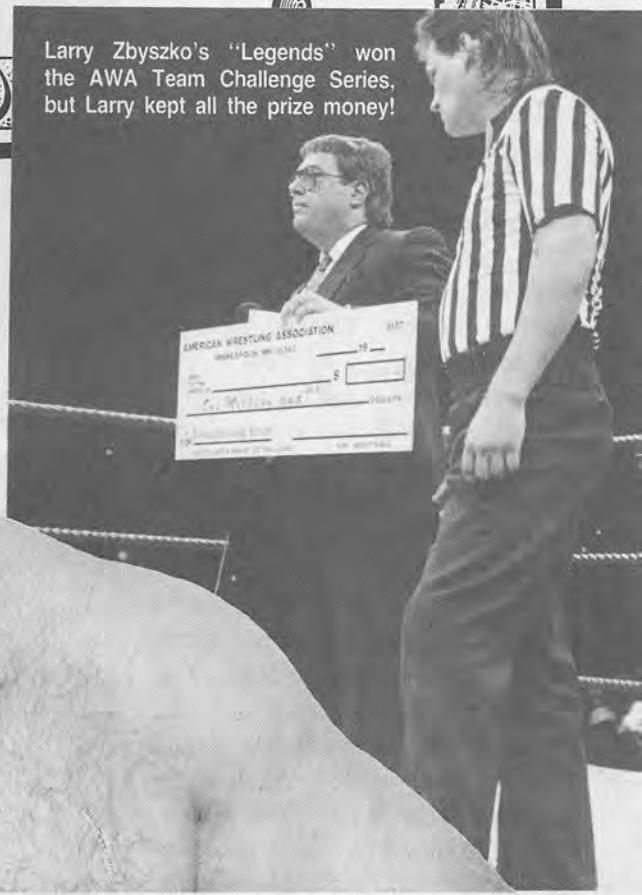
TEAM CHALLENGE SERIES SCANDAL!

LARRY ZBYSZKO'S \$1-MILLION RIPOFF



Photos by Chris Pope & Bruce Krietzman

Larry Zbyszko's "Legends" won the AWA Team Challenge Series, but Larry kept all the prize money!



There was enough money for everyone when Larry's Legends won the AWA's Team Challenge Series. But team captain Larry Zbyszko decided to keep it all for himself. Now he may pay the price in another way!

By Dave Rosenbaum

LARRY ZBYSZKO TOOK the money and ran! He had a check crumpled up in his left hand and his right arm bent like that of a running

back. He made a beeline for the dressing room, burst through the door and, as a group of astonished rulebreakers looked on, leaped on top of a chair.

"I'm a millionaire!" Zbyszko screamed at the top of his lungs. "I'm

a millionaire!" he screamed again. "I've got all the money I'll ever need. Larryland's gonna make Disneyland look like a pitch-and-putt golf course!"

Zbyszko stopped and looked around. He obviously expected the other people

in the room to share his enthusiasm.

Then Jake "The Milkman" Milliman approached him with an outstretched hand. "Where's *my* share?" Milliman demanded.

Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom, who were in a bad mood over losing their AWA World tag team title to The Trooper and D.J. Peterson earlier that evening, stood in front of Zbyszko and looked him over.

"Trouble," Bloom mumbled. "Real trouble."

The Texas Hangmen walked over with their ropes. That said enough.

"Guys," Zbyszko said, a look of worry coming over a face that once was full of glee. "I'm the captain. Where's your sense of generosity?"

Nobody answered. On this night, several mean men wanted their fair share, and nobody planned to go away empty-handed.

But they did. A group of AWA officials and guards defused a potentially explosive situation. Zbyszko got away with the money . . . for now.

Now he must guard his life.

When Jake Milliman won a 12-man battle royal on August 11 in Rochester, Minnesota, he earned five points and \$1-million for Larry's Legends in the final Team Challenge Series event.

The final score, after 10 months of action, was: Larry's Legends 56, Baron's Blitzers 51, and Sarge's Snipers 49. Zbyszko and his team had survived a war of attrition—many of the original TCS wrestlers weren't around at the end—to win the lucrative first prize.

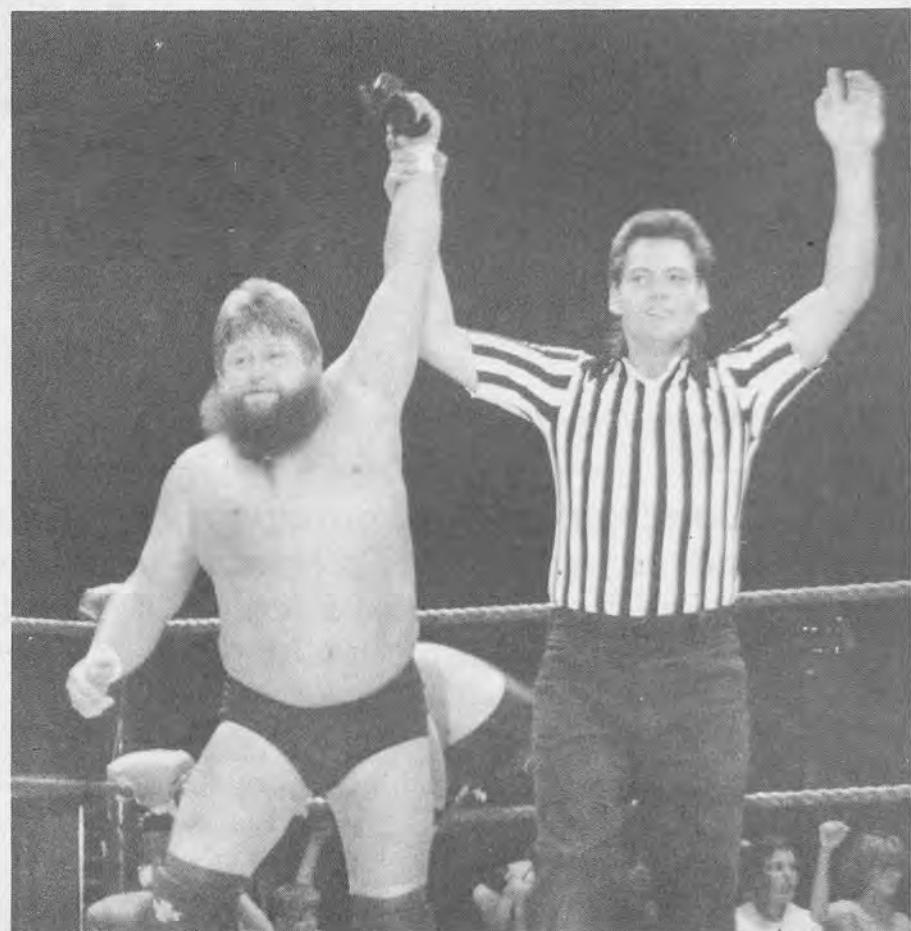
Zbyszko, however, wasn't in a sharing mood.

"When the Team Challenge Series was designed, we realized that the teams would change drastically over the course of time," said AWA President Joe Blanchard. "That's why we left it up to the team captains themselves to divide any prize money. Obviously, a man who was around for only a few matches didn't deserve as big a share as a man who went the distance."

"We also assumed that the team captains would have a sense of fair play," Blanchard said. "We assumed they'd be grateful for their teammates'



Jake "The Milkman" Milliman withstood the challenge of The Unknown Soldier (above) and won a 12-man battle royal (below) to make Larry's Legends the TCS winners.





Kokina Maximus (above, vs. Sgt. Slaughter) was only on the Legends part of the time, but he may be entitled to prize money. The Texas Hangmen (below) are furious at Zbyszko.



hard work and would award them accordingly. Naturally, we expected the team captains to take a larger share of the pot for their hard work, but we never expected a team captain to keep the whole thing for himself!"

Which is exactly what Zbyszko is trying to do. Thus far he's been succeeding, too.

"I can't take him to court, because there's nothing in the contract that guarantees me anything," Milliman complained. "I just would've hoped that he'd realize that without me winning that final match, he's got nothing. Well, one way or the other Zbyszko's going to pay the price. I'd just rather have his money than his hide."

By the end of the TCS, Larry's Legends total roster consisted of Milliman, Enos, Bloom, The Texas Hangmen, Mr. Saito, Kokina Maximus, Tony Leone, Bob Orton, Ivan Koloff, Judy Martin, Tully Blanchard, Tony DeNucci, and Larry Cameron.

Orton and Koloff never appeared for a single match. Cameron was a late addition. Blanchard left early in the series. Kokina Maximus came and went. Certainly, in splitting up any winnings, the relative contributions of these wrestlers must be considered.

But Milliman, Enos, Bloom, the Hangmen, and Martin, were integral parts of the Legends' victory. Without them, it couldn't have happened.

"I've always been a little suspicious of Zbyszko, but I never thought he'd sink this low," Enos said. "This guy ripped us off big-time!"

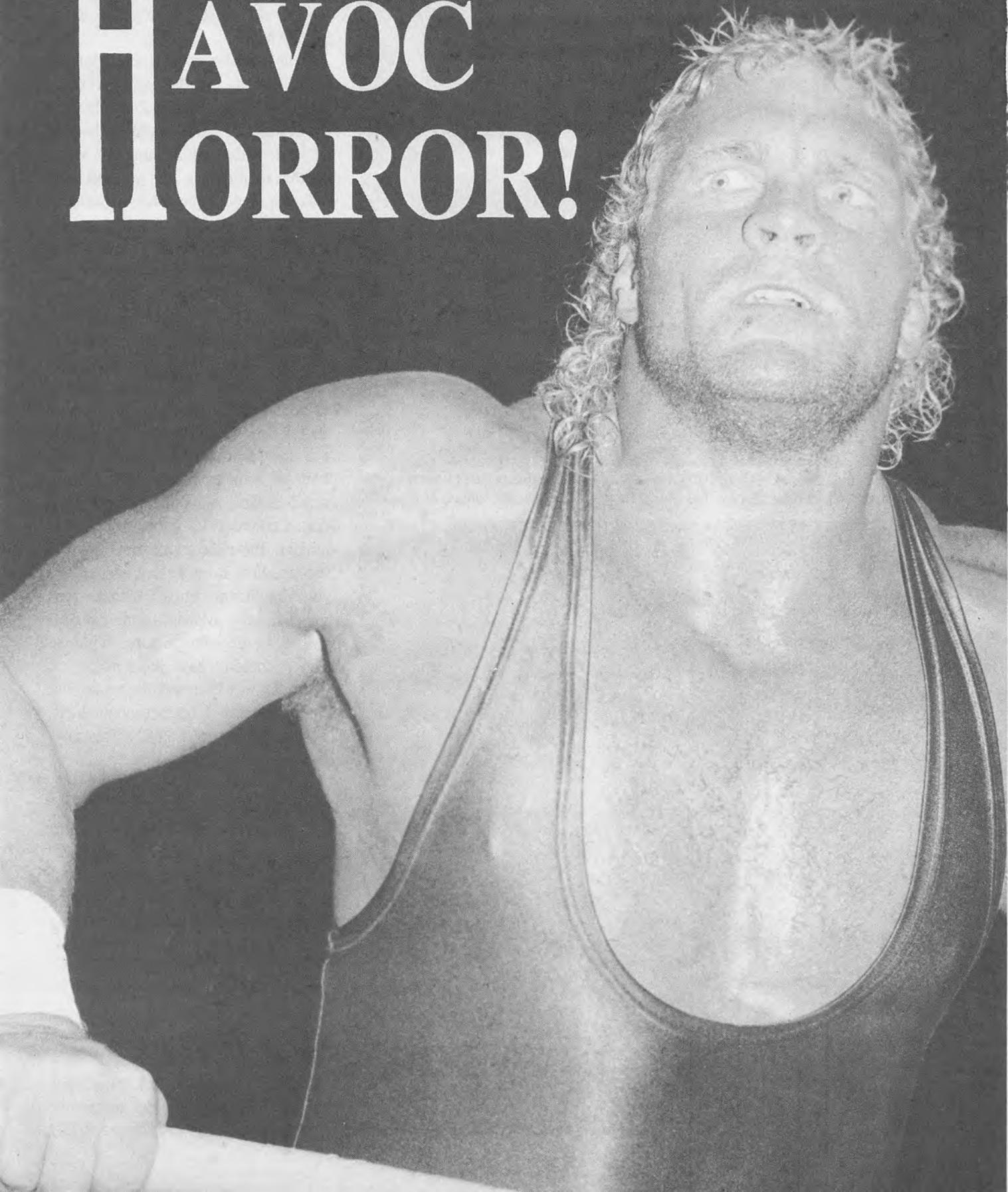
Enos had reason to be mad. On the final night of the TCS, he won a "behind the eight ball" match to earn valuable points for Larry's Legends. Enos and Bloom then combined with the Hangmen to beat Jonnie Stewart, The Unknown Soldier, Curtis Hughes, and Buck Zumhofe in another TCS "behind the eight ball" match.

"We made our contribution," Hangman Psycho said, "now Zbyszko's gotta make his. One way or another, he's gotta contribute."

Unfortunately, Zbyszko knows every loophole in the book. He apparently

(Continued on page 62)

HALLOWEEN HAVOC HORROR!



WHY STING



IS SPOOKED BY SID VICIOUS

Sting was ready to wrestle Ric Flair after winning the NWA World title, but he wasn't quite ready for reality. Reality is named Sid Vicious, and he's about to turn Sting's championship dream into a nightmare!

By Dave Rosenbaum

STING HAD NEVER won a world title before, so he never really thought about what would happen *after* he won the belt. But when he finally beat Ric Flair for the NWA World title, reality sunk in.

"We'll be reaching you in a few days about a title defense schedule," an NWA official told Sting. "We'll need to discuss it and iron it out for promotional purposes."

Sting was a bit stunned. Having devoted his life to *winning* the title, Sting gave little thought to the practical matters of *defending* it.

So, with little time to consider the situation, he assumed Flair would pose his biggest problem.

But when Sid Vicious emerged at the forefront of title contenders, Sting realized his problems were just beginning.

"Sting didn't realize what he was getting himself into," Vicious growled. "He thought he'd only have to deal with Ric. Well, he's gonna have to deal with me, too."

According to insiders, Vicious intimidated The Four Horsemen into pressuring the NWA for title shots. Then Vicious, with Horsemen backing, went in and intimidated NWA officials. He is a hungry wrestler. And, as Sting so effectively demonstrated when he defeated Flair for the belt, hungry wrestlers are the most dangerous wrestlers.

"Flair is tough and he's experienced and he wants that seventh World title," Sting said, "But Vicious wants his first, and he has

the tools to get it. In my mind, Vicious is my biggest problem."

At this point, Vicious is stalking Sting like a wild animal. He smells blood. For the first time in Vicious' career, a world title is within his reach. He is ready to make the most of his first title opportunity.

"I'm not gonna be like Luger," Vicious said, alluding to the U.S. champ's failure to win the World title despite an uncommon number of chances. "I don't need a year, I don't need two years, just put me in the ring with Sting now and I'll get the job done. The Horsemen want the title back, and I'm the man to get it for us."

Most alarmingly for Sting, Vicious is his equal—or better!—in several key categories.

Vicious is stronger than Sting. Although Sting has always prided himself on his work in the weight room, Vicious is at another level. He is the most powerful man in the NWA. He has not yet learned how to completely harness his power, but that can work to his advantage, too.

"You never really know what Vicious is gonna do next," Sting said. "He's such a wild man and he has so much strength, he's capable of turning a match around in an instant. To me, that's his greatest asset."

Vicious is also a fine *wrestler*, though he has chosen to place his scientific skills on the back burner in favor of an all-out power-based attack plan. And while he can hardly match Sting skill for



After slamming Tom Zenk to the mat with a stunning powerslam, Sid Vicious is anxious to follow up on his advantage.

skill, he does have enough of a repertoire to pose problems for even the craftiest opponent.

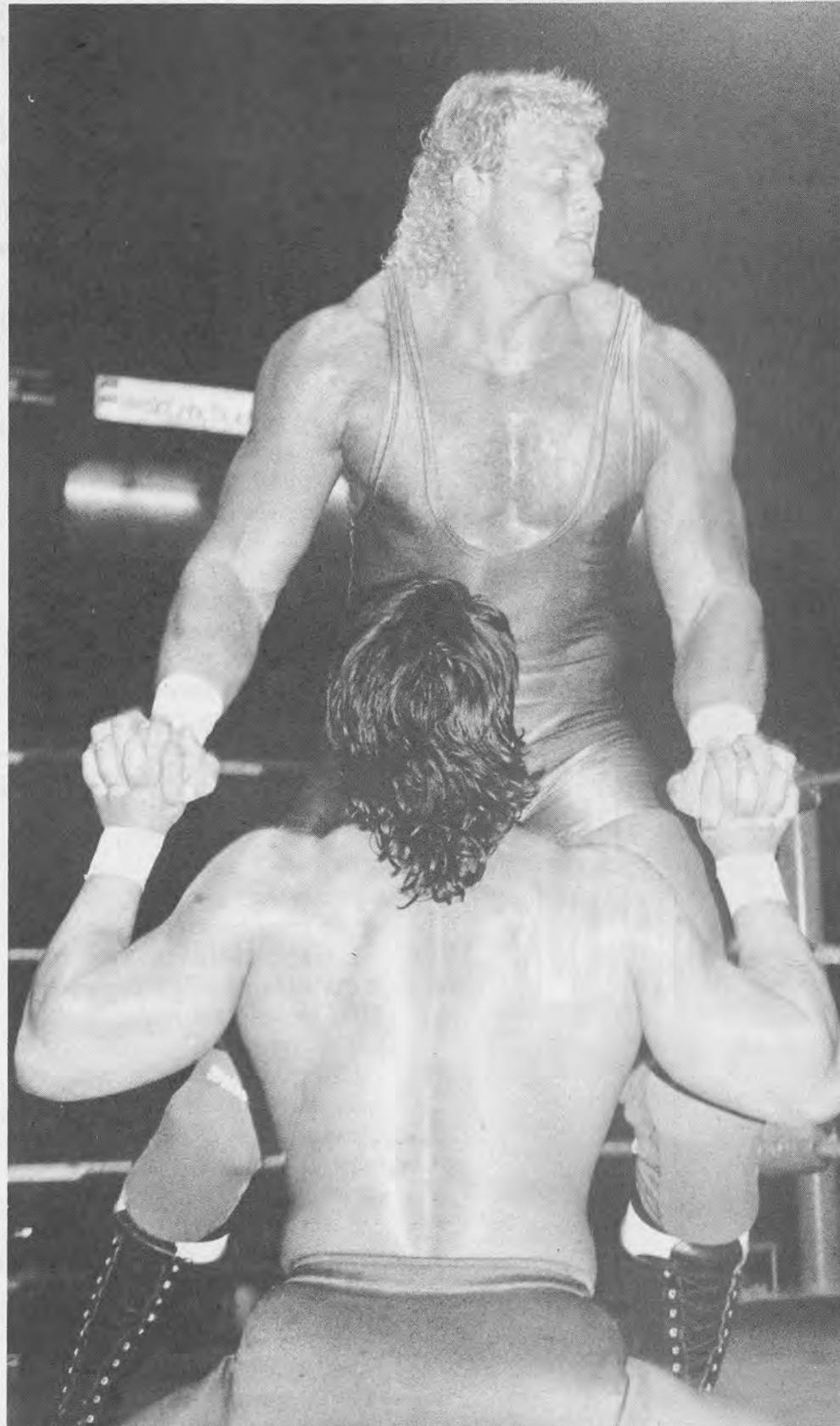
"I was amazed the first time I saw him," said Ole Anderson, manager of the Horsemen. "You look at Vicious and you just assume he's all power and nothing else. Well, he's the equal of all, and superior to many."

Not exactly. But combine Vicious' power with his more-than-inadequate skills and you find a very dangerous wrestler, indeed.

There's another interesting factor involved. Sting and Vicious are both considered by fans and critics alike to be wrestlers who will dominate the future of the sport. In many ways, then, a Sting-Vicious match is a fight for the future of professional wrestling.

"There can be only one champion of the '90s, and it's gonna be me!" Vicious vowed.

"I'm not worried about 1995 or 1999," Sting said. "I'm not even worried about 1991. For now, my main concern is remaining champion through 1990. I'll take it one match at a time."

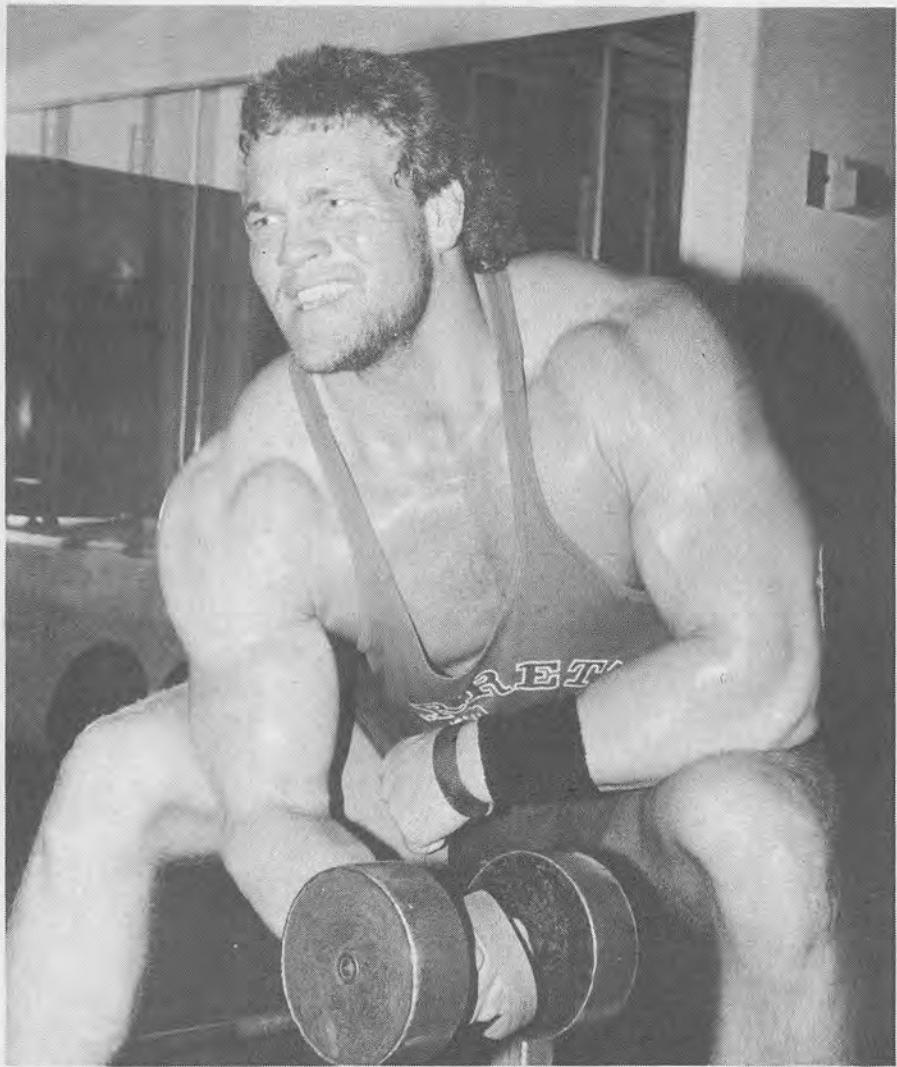


Zenk, with no hope of matching Vicious in a test of strength, crumbles to the mat under the power of the mighty Horseman. Vicious, meanwhile, looks to Ole Anderson at ringside for advice on how best to follow up on his advantage.

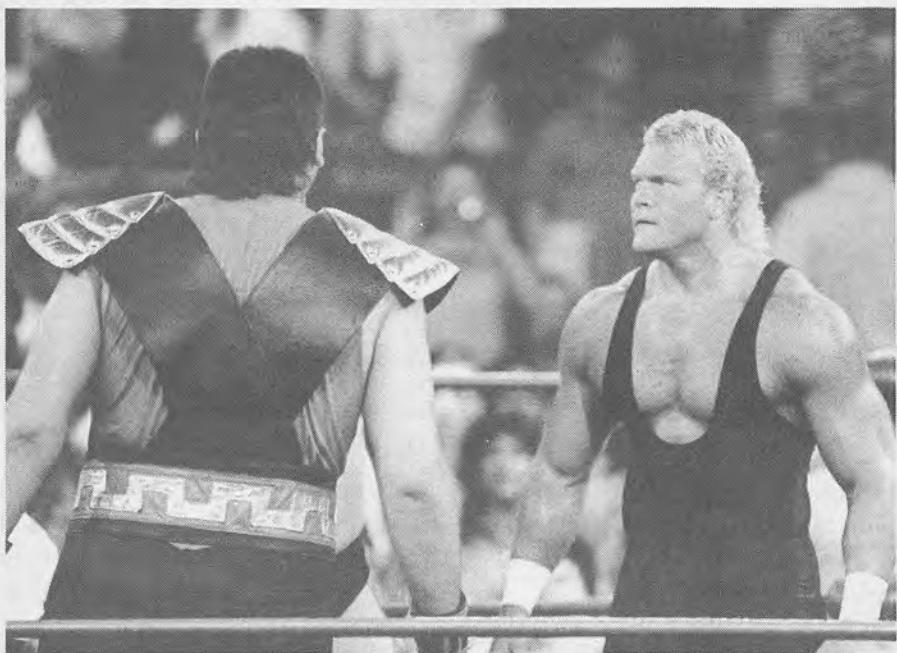
Sting may be levelheaded about his prospects for the future, but make no mistake about it: His mind is filled with concerns about

the danger that is Sid Vicious.

Plus, when Sting looks at Vicious, he recognizes himself and sees what he *could* have been.



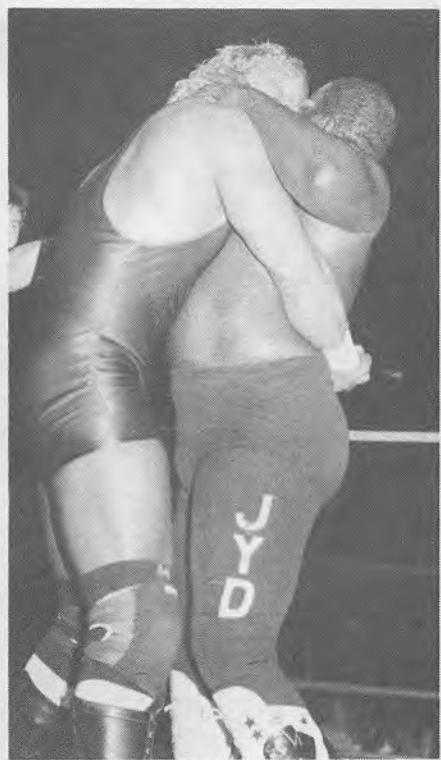
Vicious spends a lot of time in the gym working to increase his power (above). At 6'8", big Sid is dwarfed—but hardly intimidated—by 7'7" El Gigante.



Early in his career, Sting thought about what kind of wrestler he would be. He could have turned himself into a muscleman; in-

stead, he remained in good shape but concentrated on aerial and scientific skills.

"I guess if I had gone the other



Junkyard Dog finds it virtually impossible to break out of Vicious' bearhug. Vicious' ring strategy is based on sheer power.

way, I would've ended up a lot like Vicious," Sting said. "Sid's taller than me, but we have similar builds. The thing is, I thought I could go further with more skill and less muscle. So far, I've been right."

But Sting is about to find out what might have happened had he chosen the alternate career route.

"It's fascinating," Sting admitted. "But it's also a bit scary."

These have been frightening times for Sting. He is where he always wanted to be, but where does he go from here? He is the hottest young star in the sport, but Vicious wants to push him out of the spotlight and claim that status for himself. Then Vicious and fellow muscleman The Ultimate Warrior, the WWF World champion, can stand atop the wrestling world with their awesome physiques.

We live in the age of muscle-men. But if they're truly about to take over the wrestling world, Sting will be their most unwilling victim. □

INVINCIBLE



By Dave Rosenbaum

BEAT HULK HOGAN once? It's hard, but it's been done. Beat him a second time? Impossible.

Enemies have succeeded a few times in their first attack on Hogan, but never has a wrestler made it through the rematch.

Randy Savage crushed Hogan in

one of the most infamous locker-room attacks of all-time; Hogan got revenge—and the WWF World title back—at WrestleMania VI.

No wonder, then, that when The Ultimate Warrior won the World title from Hogan at WrestleMania VII, he resisted a rematch. Hogan never makes a second mistake.

But despite the lessons of history,

overconfidence has often invaded the minds of Hogan's enemies and caused them to think that they might be the first to be able to down the "Hulkster" for good.

What was Earthquake thinking? What did Jimmy Hart have on his mind? Was there ever any doubt that, at the end of SummerSlam '90, Hogan would be celebrating in the

AGAIN!



Did anyone in the sellout crowd at Philadelphia's Spectrum doubt that Hulk Hogan (above) would vanquish the mighty Earthquake (right)?

middle of the ring while Earthquake, Hart, and Dino Bravo attended to their wounds?

It was a celebration, to be sure, when Hogan entered the ring to wrestle Earthquake at the Spectrum in Philadelphia. A massive pay-per-view audience at home looked over the shoulders of the sellout crowd on hand to see the only possible

outcome of this match: Hogan's revenge.

They got what they paid for.

At SummerSlam '88, Hogan and Randy Savage, joined by the beautiful Elizabeth, overcame the challenge of Andre the Giant and Ted DiBiase. At SummerSlam '89, Hogan and Brutus Beefcake trounced Savage and Zeus.

THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF HULK HOGAN!

Earthquake made one major mistake when he attacked Hulk Hogan: He didn't finish the job. Given the chance to redeem himself at SummerSlam '90, the "Hulkster" went on a rampage. And Earthquake learned a valuable lesson



At SummerSlam '90, the spotlight belonged to the "Hulkster" alone. Bossman was there to lend some assistance, but the key word of the evening was clearly "Hulkamania!"

Hogan had double cause for revenge. Several months ago, his career was almost ended in a sneak-attack by Earthquake and Hart during a Brother Love segment.

Earthquake's devastating splashes seriously injured Hogan's ribs and sternum. His career, it seemed, was over.

But Hogan, thanks to the support of Tugboat and millions of fans, recovered faster than anybody could have imagined. By early summer, he had signed for a return match against Earthquake. Tugboat would be in Hogan's corner; Bravo would be on hand for Earthquake.

Tugboat never made it to SummerSlam. Another cowardly attack by Bravo, Earthquake, and Hart put him out of commission just weeks before the big event. In an ironic twist, Bossman—Hogan's opponent at SummerSlam '89—took Tugboat's place.

So not only did Hogan have to avenge himself, he had to avenge Tugboat, too.

Did Earthquake ever have a chance?

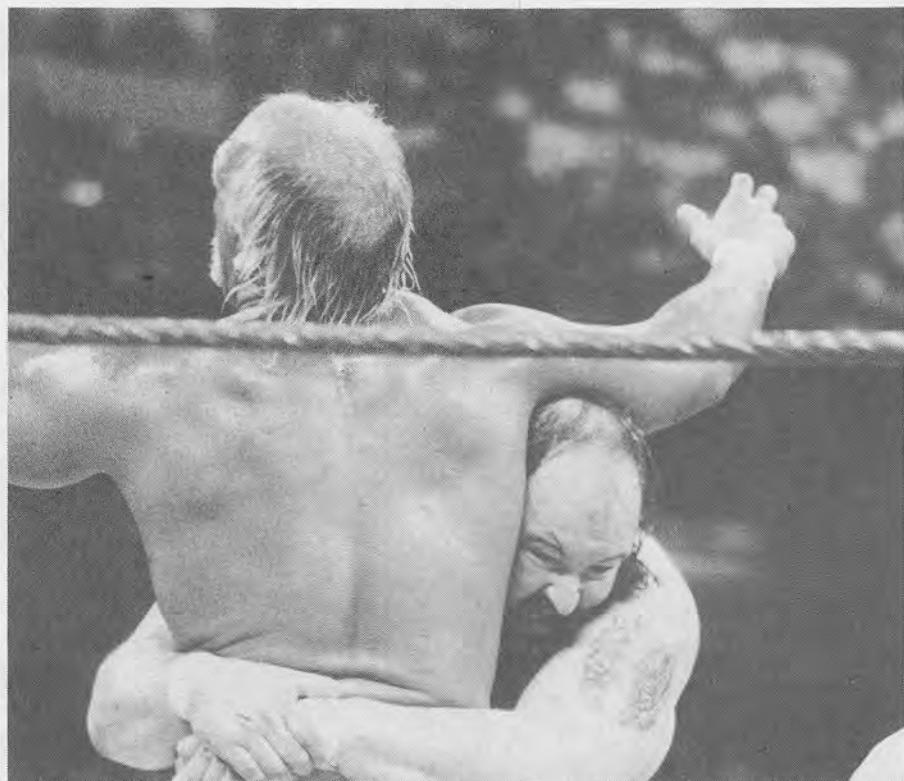
Even at the start of the match, when Hogan seemed lethargic and Earthquake delivered two splashes to his chest, there seemed to be little doubt that the "Hulkster" would turn things around.

But it wasn't easy.

Hogan was nearly beaten early, but kicked out at the count of two. Then, suddenly, with the crowd rallying behind him, Hogan took charge. Three right hands by Earthquake had little effect on Hogan. The former champ bounced back with three punches of his own, a whip into the ropes, a boot to Earthquake's face, and then a slam for a near-pin.

The Earthquake camp was forced into action. Bravo distracted referee Dave Hebner. Bossman then climbed onto the ring apron and was attended to by the referee. Meanwhile, Hart ran in the ring and smashed Hogan over the back of the head with his megaphone.

It had no effect. If anything, Hart's action only further enraged Hogan, who whirled around, lifted the scrawny manager, and threw him onto Earthquake. Both men fell



Early in the match, it appeared as though Earthquake would overpower Hogan (above). But, as he's done so many times before, Hulk summoned up the strength to come back (below).





Hogan levels 'Quake with a boot to the face (above). Earthquake makes an arrogant cover (below). There will be rematches, but Hogan clearly has the psychological advantage now.



from the ring, and Hogan had victory within reach.

Hogan's ultimate goal, of course, was to beat Earthquake into submission, then cleanly pin him in the middle of the ring. That, and only that, would have ended Earthquake's WWF reign of terror. Once beaten soundly, a big man isn't so big anymore.

Hogan's clean pin, however, would have to wait for another day.

Bossman, who had entered the ring to counteract Bravo's interference, tossed Dino to the arena floor. Meanwhile, Hogan and Earthquake battled on the other side of the ring. Then came the turning point. As Earthquake held Hogan by the arms, Hart charged at him with his megaphone. Hogan ducked. Hart struck Earthquake. Hogan, just to add a finishing touch, slammed Earthquake on a ringside table before returning to the ring.

It was over. Earthquake was helpless and couldn't get back into the ring. Hebner counted him out and Hogan had victory; not the victory he wanted, but a significant measure of revenge nonetheless.

There will be other days.

That was guaranteed when Earthquake recovered and attacked Hogan from behind. He caught the "Hulkster" in a chokehold and was on the verge of causing another serious injury when Bossman came to the rescue with a steel stepladder. Bossman, Bravo, and Hart ran for the dressing room, and Hogan soaked in the adulation of the crowd.

Hogan proved his point at SummerSlam. He proved again that he will not bow to evil, that a strong will can overcome a weakened physique. And that, while Hogan may be beatable the first time, *nobody* beats him a second time.

Certainly, Earthquake will keep all this in mind the next time he steps into the ring against Hogan. Their war has just begun, but the most important battle of all, the battle of body and soul, has already been won by Hogan. □

KERRY VON ERICH'S WWF MISSION:

Too much glory, too much money, too many title matches, all too soon.

Something seemed fishy about Kerry Von Erich's entrance into the WWF. This shocking report uncovers the truth behind the "Texas Tornado's" WWF contract



PROTECT THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR!

By Dave Rosenbaum

IT DOESN'T TAKE a rocket scientist—or even a wrestling genius, for that matter—to figure out why Kerry Von Erich left his secure, happy life in Texas for the glitter and turmoil of the WWF.

"He did it for the money," said one USWA wrestler who begged

anonymity. "It's really that simple."

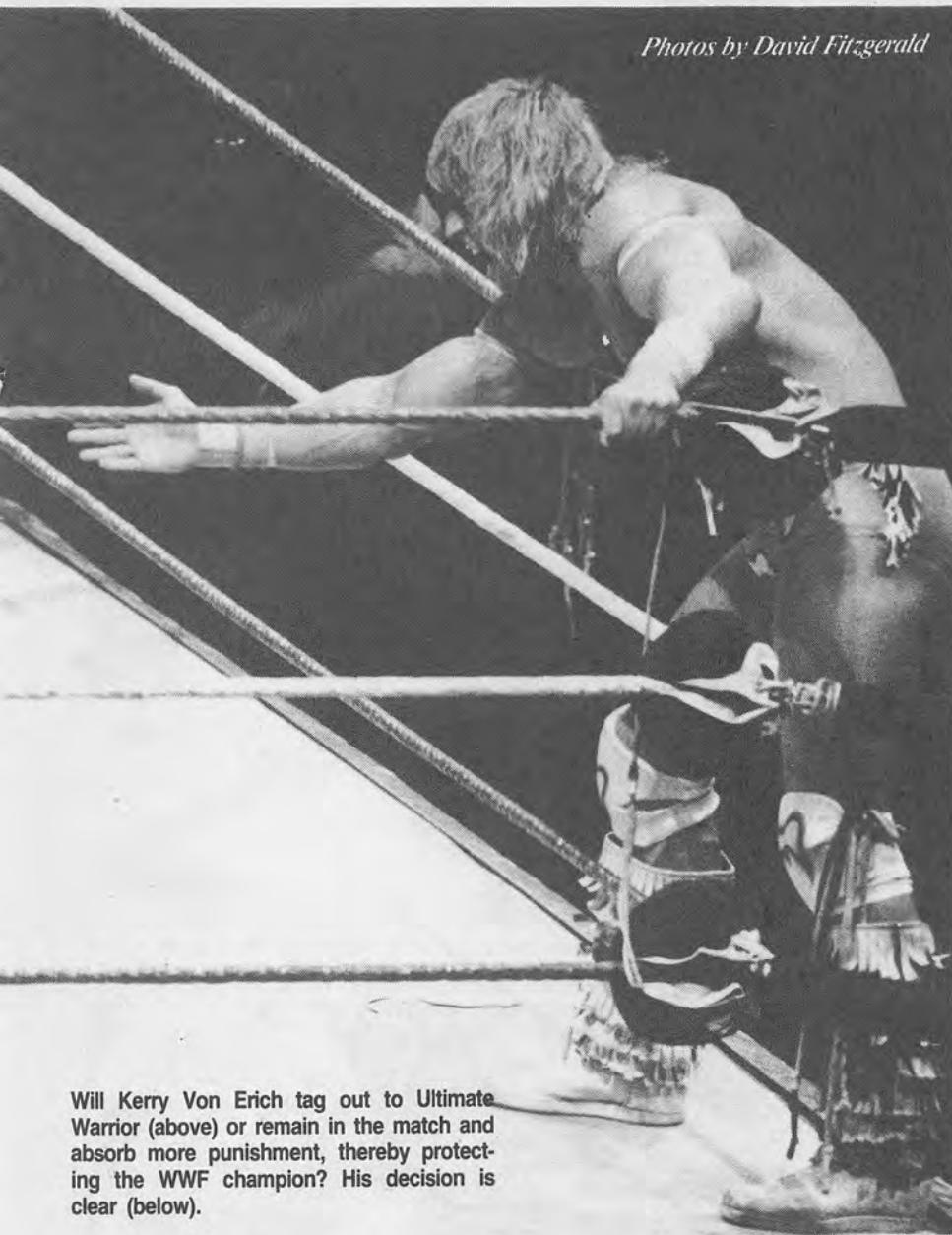
The money. Although an accurate projection is impossible, it has been estimated that Kerry's contract with the WWF brought his annual salary deep into six figures. The contract was laced with guarantees.

And it included a promise.

The WWF broke the mold when it signed Kerry Von Erich and introduced him to the federation as the "Texas Tornado." It's unlikely that we'll see something like this ever happen again.

Even when established stars sign with the WWF, they're made to go through a long proving process. Former AWA World champi-

Photos by David Fitzgerald



Will Kerry Von Erich tag out to Ultimate Warrior (above) or remain in the match and absorb more punishment, thereby protecting the WWF champion? His decision is clear (below).



on Curt Hennig did it. Three-time former NWA World champion Dusty Rhodes did it. So did Ted DiBiase, Tully Blanchard, and Arn Anderson. The Road Warriors are doing it now.

The message is that past performance means nothing in the WWF. Other federations aren't merely ignored: As far as the WWF is concerned, they're non-existent. Established superstars must pay their dues like the lowest rookies.

Not Kerry Von Erich. This "Texas Tornado" whirled into the WWF and was immediately placed in main events. His star soared from the start. How could it not have? He was placed alongside WWF World champion The Ultimate Warrior.

"Everybody in the locker room noticed that he got special treatment," said one WWF fan favorite. "Believe me, it didn't go over too well, not when every one of us has been through the mill struggling to get what Kerry was given on a silver platter."

But Von Erich wasn't brought into the federation to be like all the others.

He got the hefty contract. He got the promises. And in return, Von Erich promised to protect The Ultimate Warrior.

Figure it out. When Brutus Beefcake dropped out of his SummerSlam '90 main event against Hennig for the Intercontinental title, any number of replacements could have been called upon. Ronnie Garvin. Big Bossman. Jake Roberts. Tito Santana. Hacksaw Duggan.

Instead, the WWF offered the title match to Von Erich, the newest wrestler in the federation. Von Erich, the protector, was called upon to dethrone Hennig, the rulebreaker most likely to defeat the Warrior.

Then came the feud, the epic battle of superstars the WWF has

become famous for: Warrior and Von Erich against Hennig and Rude.

Why Von Erich? Because he was the chosen one. Because it is in his contract. Because the WWF had a great feud on its hands, but it needed a man to protect the Warrior. Von Erich was the signed, sealed, and designated bodyguard.

The WWF has two precious commodities. Former World champ Hulk Hogan is one. Current World champ Warrior is the other.

These men not only represent all that is good about wrestling. They are not merely outstanding role models. They fill the WWF coffers. They bring in the bucks and make the WWF's outlandish salary structure possible. They create the glitz and glitter.

They are the WWF.

Then, this past summer, for the second time in three years, the WWF lost Hogan to a career-threatening injury. That's when the WWF hierarchy realized how vulnerable its two main meal tickets are.

Nothing is permanent. But if the WWF lost the Warrior, too, filling the seats for any card, even SummerSlam '90, would have been impossible.

"The WWF without Hogan and the Warrior is like a Madonna concert without Madonna," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "Sure, the federation is loaded with talent, but these guys are the main stars. The problem is, Hogan has proven to be mortal over the past few years. And although the Warrior is a big, tough, durable man, he's been targeted by too many enemies. The WWF was clearly in an uncomfortable position."

So the WWF took a step to protect its investment. Without even consulting the Warrior, it brought in Von Erich as his



Warrior tries to help Von Erich escape from the clutches of "Ravishing" Rick Rude, but is sent out of the ring by the referee (above). Von Erich and Curt Hennig slug it out (below).





After Von Erich has weakened Hennig, the Warrior tags into the ring for the kill, leveling "Mr. Perfect" with a clothesline (above) and a shoulderblock (below).



bodyguard.

"This obviously isn't something Warrior knows about," Pilliard said. "If he did, I don't think he'd be too happy. He thinks Von Erich is his friend. He doesn't

know Von Erich was probably paid to be his friend."

Of course, there was something in it for Von Erich. He is making more money now than he did as NWA World champion in 1984. In-

juries have slowed him down considerably, but in the WWF, where scientific skills and aerial abilities aren't at a premium, he is one of the best wrestlers in the federation.

So he got the SummerSlam title shot. And the odds are that Von Erich will continue to get treated royally by the WWF.

Kerry has bounced back from several career-threatening injuries. That's something the WWF never talks about, although it would certainly enhance his marketability. But Kerry Von Erich isn't getting the glory; the spotlight belongs to a WWF creation called the "Texas Tornado."

"One of the greatest names in wrestling history is getting covered up," Pilliard said. "That's the shame of this whole thing, that this man is sacrificing himself for the career of another." □

HOTSEAT

JIM CORNETTE

"I HELD THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS TOGETHER!"

THESE HAVE NOT been the best of times for The Midnight Express. While this is the same team—the only team, in fact—that held the NWA World and U.S. tag team titles at the same time (in 1988), it's starting to appear that the unit of Stan Lane, Bobby Eaton, and manager Jim Cornette may be coming apart at the seams.

The team's trouble started during an August 7 card in Marietta, Georgia. Lane and Eaton were defending their U.S. tag team title against Tom Zenk and Brian Pillman. Unexpectedly, Sid Vicious interfered on behalf of the Express. During the ensuing melee, Vicious accidentally decked Lane with a clothesline.

When Cornette started yelling at the massive Horseman, Vicious responded by hurling the manager into the corner. Angered beyond reason, Eaton attacked Vicious, and the rulebreaking duo battled all the way to the dressing rooms. A livid Eaton was ready to declare war on all Four Horsemen, but Cornette managed to talk him out of it.

That situation was soon followed by an even bigger problem: The Express lost their U.S. tag title to Rick and Scott Steiner on August 24 in East

Rutherford, New Jersey. Now, Cornette faces the stern task of keeping his team intact during perhaps the most tumultuous time of their careers.

Associate Editor Bob Smith ventured to Cornette's mansion in Louisville, Kentucky, for this interview. He

“

Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton are the greatest tag team of modern times, and nothing is going to change that.

”

found the beleaguered manager ready to set the record straight about his team's recent tribulations.

Q: Jim, thank you for allowing me into your beautiful home once again. I guess I should offer my condolences for your loss of the U.S. tag team title . . .

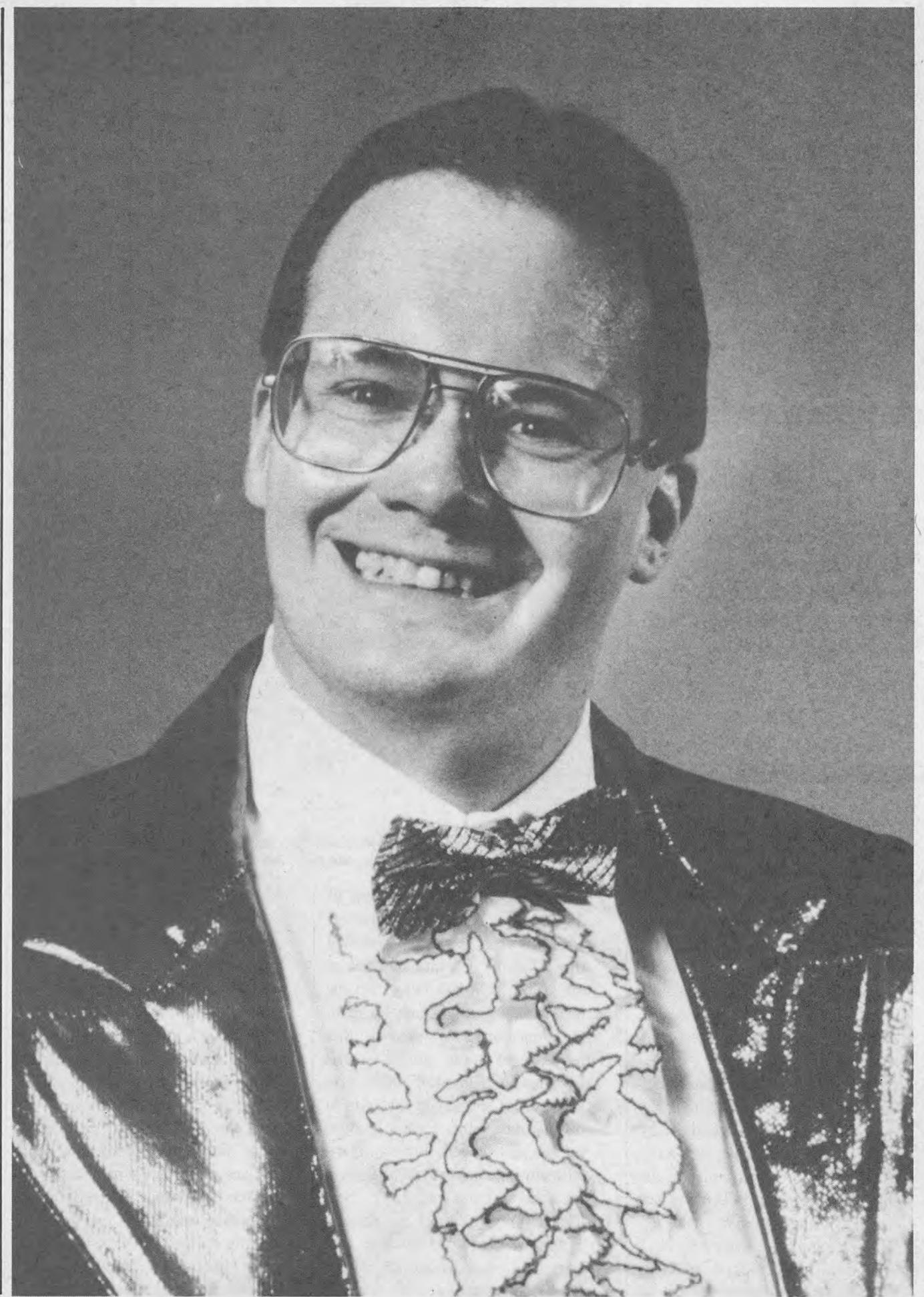
A: Shut the hell up! I don't need sympathy from you, the fans, or any-

body else. Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton are the greatest tag team of modern times, and nothing, particularly a fluke loss at the hands of those stupid stooge Steiners, is going to change that. After all, it's only one loss, right? We'll rebound from this setback the same way we always have in the past.

Q: It is true that The Midnight Express seems to have an uncanny knack for being right in the middle of the NWA's title picture. But lately, we've been hearing some rumors—actually, a lot of rumors—about your men. In particular, I know that Bobby Eaton isn't seeing eye-to-eye with you right now.

A: That's a total and utter lie, you idiot! Sure, these past couple of months haven't exactly been glory days, but I held The Midnight Express together. I'm the one who keeps them on the winning track. How dare you come into my home and start spewing such ridiculous comments!

Q: Jim, I'm not here to get into an argument with you. Eaton talked to Bill Apter recently and said he was never going to forgive Vicious for what he did during that match





“

You can bet our desire to be U.S. champions hasn't subsided one bit. The Steiners are gonna pay, and pay big-time.

”

in Marietta. Don't you and Stan feel the same way about Sid?

A: Of course we don't. The Four Horsemen are the most outstanding rulebreaking organization in the sport today, not counting my boys, of course. When Vicious offered to help us out in our match against those wimps Pillman and Zenk, I was only too happy to accept his kind offer.

Q: I'm sure you had your reasons for that, but the fact remains that Vicious messed up his assignment by clotheslining Lane. Then he practically threw you right out of the ring! I don't blame Bobby for getting hot in that situation. After all, he was coming to *your* aid, Jim.

A: Sure, but I don't agree with his attitude. What everybody has to



Scott Steiner hiptosses Bobby Eaton during the bout in which the Steiners beat The Midnight Express for the U.S. tag title. Naturally, Jim Cornette says the Steiners cheated.

know about Sid is that he's one of the most violent men anywhere when he gets inside a wrestling ring. Once he gets into the heat of the action, he'll lash out at anyone or anything that gets into his path. He's uncontrollable when he flies into a rage! Bobby should've realized that, and he also should have known that Sid was in that ring to help us. But before I knew it, Bobby was all over Sid, and they started throwing chairs at each other in the aisle. What a mess!

Q: That's for sure. After that match, Bobby was as livid as I've ever seen him. He was actually saying that if you and Stan were going to

side with Vicious, then maybe he was part of the wrong team. It really looked as if the Express was about to fall apart.

A: But we stayed together, didn't we, you troublemaker? You know, I used to be a journalist and photographer myself. I know all about how you guys try to dig up all the dirt you can about people. Well, you can just forget it right now. Sure, Bobby was pretty mad, and he was every bit as mad at me as he was at Vicious. He was going around saying that he was going to destroy the Horsemen, and all that other stuff. You don't hear him talking that way now, do you?



Stan Lane (whipping Rick Steiner) is a solid member of the Express, says Cornette.

Q: No. All I hear him talking about is how he and Stan lost the U.S. tag title to the Steiners.

A: Hey, that's a low blow. That was a fluke loss, and the result should have been voided immediately. That cockeyed referee, Mike Atkins, was the *real* reason we lost the U.S. belts. How could they allow a result like that to stand? All four wrestlers were in the ring, and both Rick and Scott Steiner clotheslined Stan. It's a miscarriage of justice, and I'm working on getting that decision overturned. It's little wonder why they call me the **greatest manager in this sport**.

Q: But there's more to this situation than meets the eye, and that's another reason why I wanted to talk to you. It appears that Lane is more than a little perturbed about the way the Express lost the U.S. title. He's angry about your attempts to interfere with your tennis racket during that match. As I recall, he got smacked pretty hard. Another accident, Jim?

A: That *was* an accident! Stan really ought to know that I never get physically involved in a wrestling match unless I'm provoked beyond any recourse. During that match, the Steiners were cheating left and right . . .

Q: Come on now! I was at that match, and the truth of the matter is that the Steiners were outwres-

tling your boys.

A: Oh, why don't you go soak your fat head! Why don't you mention how the Steiners kept baiting Atkins so that they could double-team Bobby and Stan? How come you never bring up how Scott used that "Frankensteiner" maneuver of his, which has to be the most illegal move ever devised? How come your . . .

Q: How come you don't respond to my original question? What about Lane? How were you able to soothe *his* ruffled feathers?

A: There was nothing wrong with Stan that a good heart-to-heart talking-to couldn't bring to an end. Sure, I was a little off with the tennis racket during that Meadowlands match, but that wasn't the reason why we lost. Like I said before, that referee, Atkins, was the real culprit. He had no business counting that pinfall on Stan while everybody was in the ring. Now, we're going to have to live without those belts for a while, but you can bet our desire to be U.S. champions hasn't subsided one bit. Those Steiners are gonna pay, and pay big-time.

Q: I know how much you covet those U.S. belts, but how about the World tag team title that's currently held by Ron Simmons and Butch Reed? A match between the Express and Doom would surely be a classic.

A: Finally, you speak the truth. A Doom-Express match would fill up any arena in this country. I'll tell you, I'm good friends with **Teddy Long**, but sometimes ambition can get in the way of friendship. There's no reason at all why Bobby and Stan shouldn't be NWA World tag team champions. After all, we did it before in 1988, and we beat an excellent team in Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard to get the job done. Simmons and Reed are good—*damn* good—but the Express are much, much better. I know we could beat them quickly



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I'm good friends with [Doom manager] **Teddy Long**, but sometimes ambition can get in the way of friendship.

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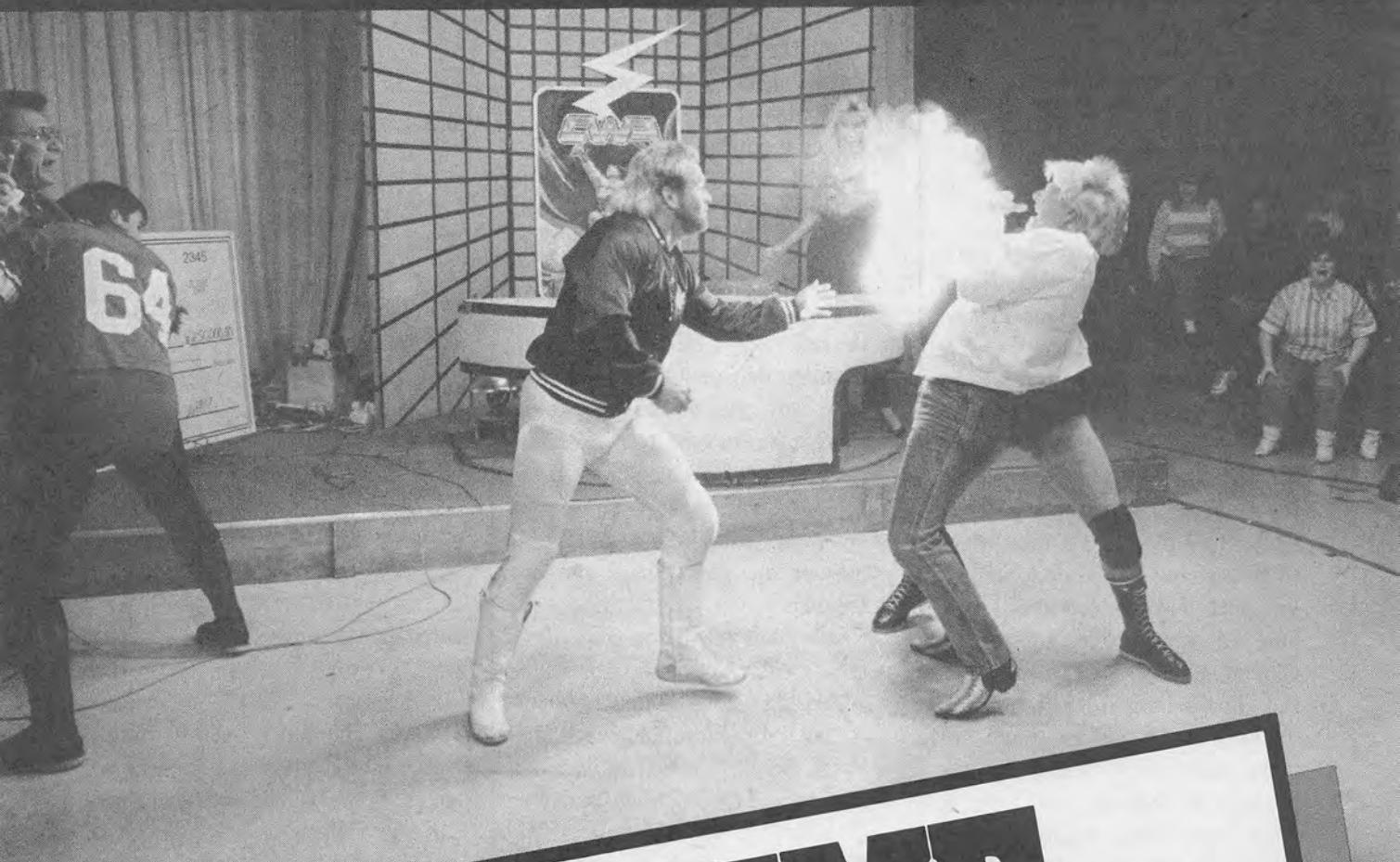
and decisively.

Q: Maybe. But frankly, all the rumors about the Express keep burning my ears. Some say Bobby is still mad at you. Others say Stan is ready to bolt the team the first chance he gets. Another report I've heard says that Bobby and Stan will stay together, but they're ready to dump *you*.

A: I'm surprised a reporter of your stature would pay any attention to the grist mill. Don't listen to those rumors. Here's something that you can believe: The Express is back, and we're *angry*. The Steiners are going to suffer. We'll end up right back on top, where we should've been all along. Now get the hell out of my house before my butler tosses you out on your butt! □

The *Inside Wrestling* Solution:

THROW FLAME?



**LIFETIME
SUSPENSION!**

THE SICKENING SCREAMS could be heard in every corner of the arena. Jeff Jarrett lay on the floor of the Sportatorium, his face a mass of charred skin. Skandor Akbar had reached into his tights, grabbed a cigarette lighter, and thrown a fireball in the unsuspecting young star's face.

Once officials realized what had occurred, they were quick to respond. Other wrestlers ran from the dressing room and wrapped Jarrett's head in wet towels. Jarrett was then scurried off to the locker room, where a soothing balm was applied to the scorched skin around his



From the heinous heyday of The Sheik to the current antics of "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert, throwing fire remains the most reprehensible act ever seen in the sport. With many stars deciding to use this cowardly tactic, it's time the federations got tough and banned those who dare hurl flames through the air!

nose and eyes. He was transported by ambulance to the burn unit of a local Dallas hospital.

Luckily, the damage to Jarrett's face was not as severe as originally feared. He suffered some minor burns to his cheeks and around the eye sockets, but his face did not require skin grafts. After being released from the hospital the following day, Jarrett admitted he had never been though anything like it before.

"It was the most terrifying moment of my wrestling career," said Jarrett, still a bit traumatized by the incident. "I've had people use all kinds of tactics against me in the past, but fire? Someone could get scarred for life if a fireball hits them flush in the face! I wonder what the USWA's punishment for Akbar will be for burning me?"

Amazingly, the USWA failed to impose any kind of penalty for Akbar's brutal act. USWA officials have also failed to take action against Eddie Gilbert, who has been hurling fire at his opponents in Memphis, or Jerry

Eddie Gilbert throws fireballs at Memphis promoter Jerry Jarrett (opposite page) and wrestling official Randy Hales (above). Jerry Lawler does the same to Kamala (below).





The "original" Sheik is the original flame-thrower in the sport. In 1975, he aimed his weapon at Abdullah the Butcher, but hit the referee (above). The Sheik demonstrated his skills for an *Inside Wrestling* photographer (below), but photographic analysis revealed no clue as to how the flame is created.

Lawler, who uses the tactic only on rare occasions but with frightening precision.

How can this be allowed? How, in an era when the level of sheer violence in the sport has been curtailed drastically, can this unthinkable act of sadism be allowed?

The USWA has been a haven for fire-throwers in the past several months, and we feel it is time this reprehensible act was banned. It's not often that all the editors of *Inside Wrestling* agree on a topic, but we've come up with a solution: If a man is found guilty of shooting flame at another wrestler, he should be banned from the sport for life.

"This sickening act has been allowed to flourish for too long now," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, who spoke for every member of the editorial board. "Even Eddie Ellner believes that throwing fire goes beyond

the realm of any reasonable conduct. Lately, we've had Akbar, Gilbert, and Lawler all running around burning people up. I can't understand why nothing is done about it."

Actually, many federation officials admit they would do more if they could figure out exactly how fire-throwing is achieved.

"I agree that hurling flame is the worst tactic ever devised," said USWA President Max Andrews. "What we can't figure out is how wrestlers are able to do it. Obviously, they don't walk around with flamethrowers in their tights. Even our best referees can't find anything on Gilber or Akbar that resembles a foreign object. Personally, I blame all of this on The Sheik. He was the guy who started it all."

In the late '50s, the "original" Sheik came out of Saudi Arabia with the unnerving ability to hurl flame from his fingertips. Sheik's incendiary talents enabled him to win and hold on to the U.S. title for most of the '60s and early '70s while burning wrestlers in nearly every match. Even referee Johnny "Red Shoes" Duggan was belted by a fireball!



When The Sheik faded from the wrestling scene in the late '70s, many in the sport believed that flame-throwing would be a thing of the past. But it was about that time that Jerry Lawler was first making his mark.

"Hitting somebody with a fireball is something that I'm not all that

proud of," admits Lawler today. "I only use this tactic when I'm endangered beyond any other means of escape. Nothing stops a guy faster than a flameball right at him. And remember, I never try to aim the flame right in my opponent's face. I usually use it just to scare him off."

The same can't be said for Eddie

Gilbert, who usually throws fire with much worse intentions. Gilbert is quick to admit that when he releases a flameball, he's doing it to intentionally injure his foe.

"Hey, I didn't get the nickname of 'Hot Stuff' for nothing," laughs Gilbert. "Throwing fire has made me the most feared man in this sport. Hey, I'm not the biggest or the strongest, but the fear of being burned keeps my opponents wondering when the awful moment will come. Just ask Tom Burton. He'll tell you how terrible being burned can be."

Burton was accidentally struck by a Gilbert fireball during a television taping in July. He was holding Lawler's arms so that Gilbert could scorch "The King." But when Lawler moved, the fireball struck Burton flush in the face.

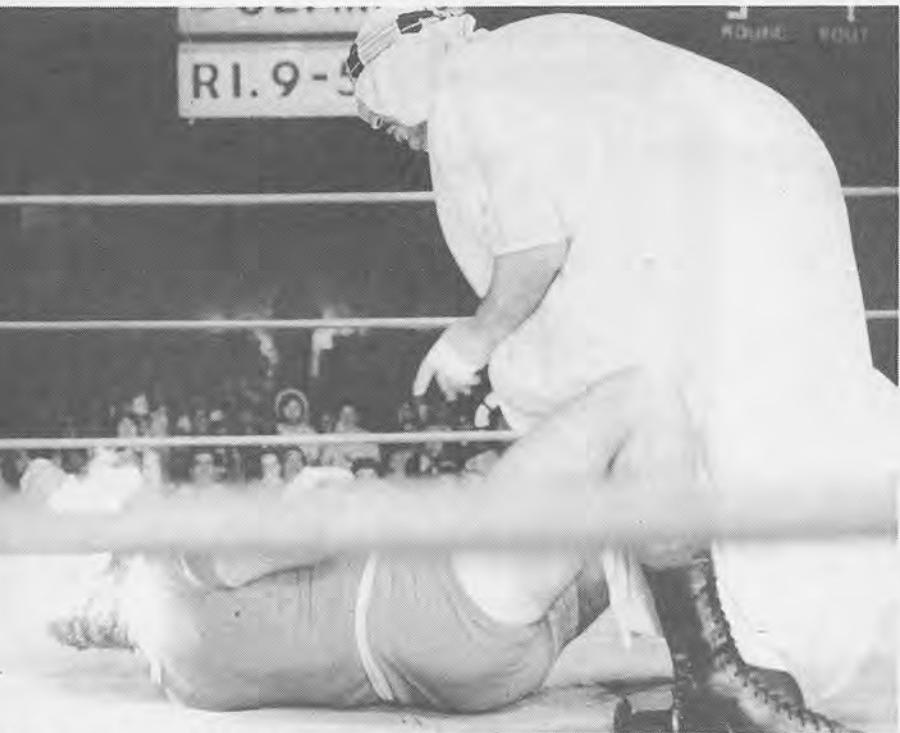
No wrestler should ever have to go through that. Hurling fire not only endangers wrestlers, but the fans in the arenas as well. What would happen if a wrestler accidentally started a fire in the ring or, worse yet, was responsible for a full-scale blaze?

"We're close to making some kind of a ruling on fire," said Andrews sternly. "Our biggest cards are held at the Sportatorium in Dallas, which is mostly wood on the inside. I'd hate to see a fire break out there, so I'm hoping we can do something to alleviate this problem soon."

It had better happen quickly. A wrestler who hurls fire endangers his opponents, the fans, and the sport itself. Nothing short of a lifetime suspension is proper punishment for such a thoughtless and violent act.

We'd hate to see Gilbert, Lawler, and Akbar deprived of the sport that made them famous. But we'd rather see them suspended rather than support the premise that this sport condones such wanton brutality. The next time any of these men unleashes a fireball, it should be the last time it ever happens.

Otherwise, the entire sport could soon go up in smoke. □



The Sheik terrorized Los Angeles in the mid-'70s, making the ring too hot to handle for men like Lou Anthony (above) and Fred Blassie (below).



The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

IT STARTED AS a farce. One day in mid-July, The Freebirds—Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin—showed up at an NWA TV taping with a trophy: the Southern tag team trophy.

According to Hayes and Garvin, they had won the trophy in a recent tournament. Where was the tournament held? Who were their opponents? Why didn't anybody know about this tournament?

Such questions were meaningless to The Freebirds. They had a plan.

Their goal was to enrage The Southern Boys—Tracey Smothers and Steve Armstrong.

With trophy in hand, The Freebirds started interfering in The Southern Boys' matches. They claimed that Smothers and Armstrong are not really Southerners, but imposters merely trying to gain the support of the fans.

Not surprisingly, Armstrong and Smothers—two genuine Confederate souls with the accents to prove it—were incensed. And the Battle of the South was born.

This was no mere civil war. This was infighting at its most ferocious.

The effect of the feud has been tumultuous. Buddy Roberts has rejoined Hayes and Garvin. And to neutralize Roberts, Bob Armstrong, Steve's father, has joined The Southern Boys.

ONE O



"You mean to tell me you fairies come into that ring waving the proud ol' Confederate flag and you've got nothing against Yankees?"

—Michael Hayes

Within the feud itself, however, a special hatred has grown between Hayes and Steve Armstrong, the men we decided to bring together . . . "One on One."

MICHAEL HAYES:

Well suck my grits, what've we got here? Half of the Yankee Connection. Where's the other New York boy, Armstrong?

STEVE ARMSTRONG:

Hayes, you'd better watch your mouth. We got nothin' against New Yorkers, and we got nothin' against Yankees, but we got plenty against you. We got a lot of . . .

MH: Cool it, Yankee boy, you just exposed yourself. You mean to tell me you fairies come into that ring waving the proud ol' Confederate flag and you've got nothin' against Yankees? That don't seem to fill the bill.

SA: Listen, Hayes, we're proud of where we come from, but that don't mean we gotta hate everyone else. It's just that over the last few years, men like you and Garvin and Roberts haven't given the South much to be proud of. Well, we're aimin' to end that.

MH: By doing what? By signing autographs and puttin' on that fake Southern accent? By bringin'

N ONE



"Listen, Hayes, we're proud of where we come from, but that don't mean we gotta hate everyone else."

—Steve Armstrong

your daddy in to save your hides?

SA: And what's Roberts here for?

MH: Buddy "Jack" is a tried, true, and genuine member of The Fabulous Freebirds. What's the matter, Armstrong, don't you know anything about wrestling? Don't you know that, for the past two decades, The Freebirds have been the most powerful force in the sport? We're not talkin' about just the South, buddy, we're talkin' about the whole roost!

SA: You know, for the past 10 years you've been givin' this image that all Southerners do is drink, party, and rob from their friends. Well,

that's not the way it is. We're the genuine Southern Boys. We're what the South is all about.

MH: Don't matter, Armstrong. We got the trophies.

SA: The trophies . . .

MH: That's right, the Southern tag team trophies.

SA: Those trophies you're so proud of don't mean nothin'. The fact is that we're the top contenders to the U.S. tag team title and you've got nothin'.

MH: Time for another history lesson, Armstrong?

SA: You can shoot your mouth off all you want. I ain't listenin'.

MH: Well, I'm talkin' 'bout The Free-

birds, former NWA World tag team champions, former World Class champions, former champions of anywhere that we've ever been. And we've been to places you've never been.

SA: Yeah, the gutter, prison, the underside of a bar stool . . .

MH: That's right, and Badstreet U.S.A.

SA: Another fictional location. Hayes, your glory's all in your mind. When you gonna admit that?

MH: My glory, *our* glory, is a part of wrestling history. It's a part of Southern heritage. Armstrong, you and Smothers are a tradition that doesn't exist.

SA: Me and Tracey are making the South proud.

MH: What part of the South is that? The 12-and-under part? Every teeny-bopper in the state of Georgia is the . . .

SA: It's not a bad bunch of people to have on your side . . .

MH: But nobody who has a mind of his own. The people who really count know who's genuine and who's fake.

SA: The people who really count are the young people of the South. They're the ones we're trying to get through to before you affect their brains.

MH: Listen, Armstrong, reality is that people say they admire good but they wanna be bad. They wanna take a walk on the wild side. They wanna take a walk down Badstreet U.S.A.

SA: You're wrong because the new South has already risen and it's buried you.

MH: You're messin' with the wrong men, Armstrong. You and Smothers should go back where you came from. Take the next train north.

SA: We're stayin' right where we are. And no has-been Freebirds are gonna have anything to say about it. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

mate Warrior, and Luger put together.

There's only one more thing that I could hope for: that Sting will retire Flair by preventing him from ever regaining the World title!

NANCY STEWART
Norristown, PA

GOOD BIRDS, BAD BIRDS

Over the past five years, The Freebirds have been one of the sport's top teams. They've won titles in the NWA and World Class (now USWA) areas. They have been fan favorites and rule-breakers, and they've proven themselves to everyone in the sport.

The current combination of Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin is the best Freebird combination there has ever been. I just wish they would change and become fan favorites once again.

EVAN CONSONI
Closter, NJ

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Greg "The Hammer" Valentine was the only decent wrestler in the feud between Rhythm 'n' Blues and The Bushwhackers, in reader Roy Halpern's opinion.

THE WIMP FACTOR

As a longtime Road Warrior fan, I could expound for hours on The Legion of Doom's shocking move to the WWF, but I'll keep this short and to the point: By leaving the NWA, Hawk and Animal have not only sold out, they've *wimped* out!

MIKE MANGES
Barberton, OH

Hawk and Animal may wear black in the ring, but the only color that comes to mind now when someone mentions them is yellow. They're wimps for letting Doom run them out of the NWA.

From now on, whenever I eat chicken I'll think of Animal and Hawk, because that's exactly what they are!

BILL WALKOWITZ
Chicago

WHACKING THE BUSHES

The Bushwhackers were winning their feud with The Honky Tonk Man and Greg Valentine, but Honky Tonk and "The Hammer" have been coming back strong recently. It makes you wonder if this feud is ever going to have a decisive winner. Maybe it will go on for two more years, like it seems most feuds in the WWF do.

Frankly, I don't care too much for either team. Of the four men, only Valentine is a decent wrestler. All The Bushwhackers do is kick and punch, and Honky does little more.

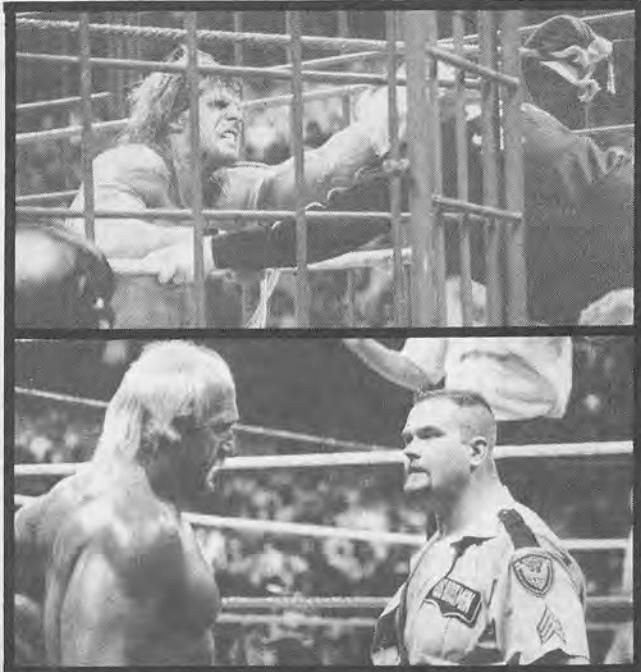
This feud doesn't belong in the WWF, it belongs in the wrestling hall of shame. Oh, how I long for the days of clean wrestling!

ROY HALPERN
White Plains, NY
(Continued on page 54)

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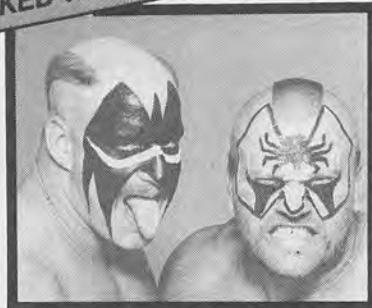
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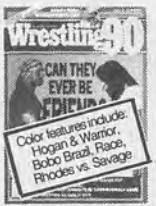
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

BAD RAP FOR ROTUNDO

You have not been fair to Mike Rotundo at all! How could you if you printed a story like "Mike Rotundo's Shocking Mission: Infiltrate And Destroy The Steiners!" (October 1990). How could you accuse Mike of doing anything to hurt the Steiners?

Admittedly, Mike was not the world's most honorable wrestler for a while, but he managed to come back to the values that made him a champion. Your story is just needless and unfair speculation. I think you should apologize to Mike for that article.

LINDA NORR
Detroit

TEAM CHALLENGE DEFENDER

The AWA's recently concluded Team Challenge Series has gotten a lot of bad press lately, but I think the AWA should be commended for trying out such a novel idea on a tired sport.



Col. DeBeers and Baron Von Raschke were foes in the Team Challenge Series, a concept applauded by reader Lisa Norman.

Yes, some of the matches were unusual and hard to follow, but that was part of the appeal. There was tremendous excitement just in seeing how the matches would turn out, or which match you'd see when you got to the arena. I went to several cards with Team Challenge bouts, and I never went away unhappy.

So don't be so critical of the AWA. I hope other federations will try and take a chance on the TCS concept.

LISA NORMAN
Edina, MN

BAM BAM FIZZLING OUT?

Bam Bam Bigelow was once on the verge of great things. In the WWF, he seemed so close to winning a major championship. It was the same story when he went to the NWA. It was only a question of time, a lot of people thought, until Bam Bam Bigelow was the scourge of the wrestling world.



Bam Bam Bigelow is a great wrestler who, in reader Ophelia Munroe's opinion, could be doing much better.

What happened? Bigelow is doing extremely well on the independent circuit, but he doesn't incite or inspire the fans. I'm sorry to say he's become a real disappointment. I wish I could put my finger on why he hasn't lived up to his promise.

Bam Bam, there's still time to be great. You can do it.

OPHELIA MUNROE
Johnson City, TN □

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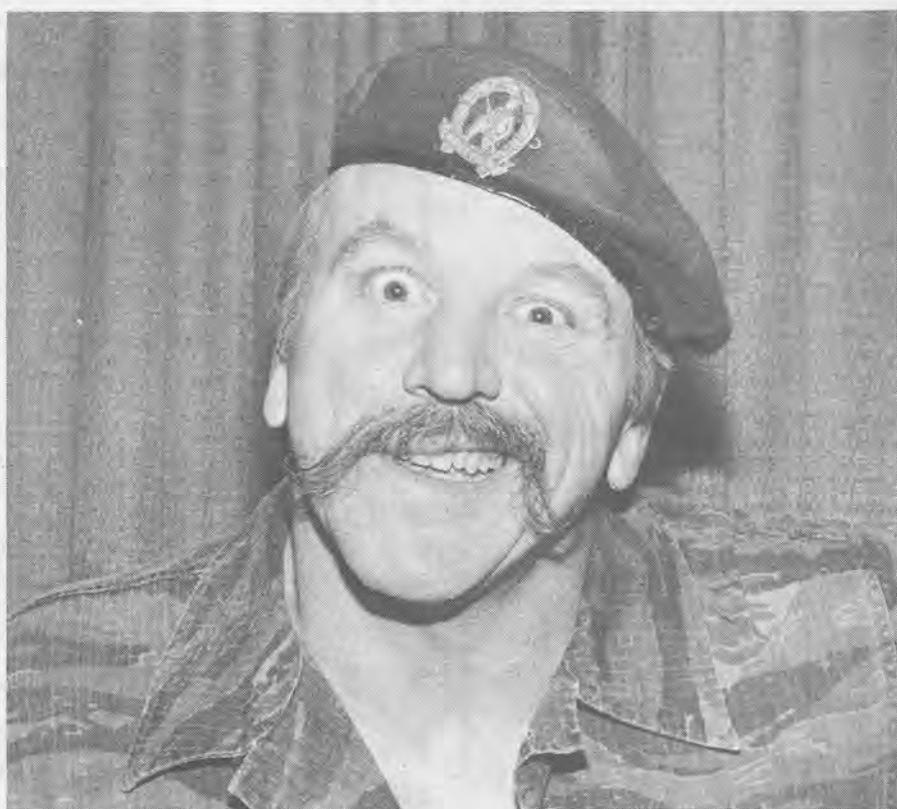
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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



Col. DeBeers says that if he were captain of the winning Team Challenge Series squad, he would have split the prize money equally among all team members. Right.

"Zbyszko is not a man," DeBeers said. "A real man does not break a promise, especially to his fellow men."

I assumed, at this point, that DeBeers meant his fellow rulebreakers.

"If it was me, I would have divided the money equally," DeBeers said. "That's the honorable thing to do."

Would he have given an equal share to teammates of all races, creeds, and colors?

"Absolutely," DeBeers said, although I didn't believe him. "An agreement is an agreement."

Zbyszko's contention, of course, was that he was not required to divide the money. Nowhere in the Team Challenge Series rules does it say that team members are entitled to an equal share of the pot.

"I didn't cheat anyone," Zbyszko said. "I didn't break any rules."

"Zbyszko broke unwritten rules of decency," said DeBeers, sounding a refrain I never thought I'd hear.

An unusual situation arose in the Team Challenge Series. Sgt. Slaughter, team captain of Sarge's Snipers, left the AWA for the WWF before the TCS finals. On the last day of the TCS, the Snipers were still in contention for the championship. According to TCS rules, all prize money is sent to the team captain. Would AWA officials have sent the \$1-million to Slaughter, a man wrestling in the rival WWF?

"Absolutely," AWA President Joe Blanchard said. "A man must live by his word. Sure, we wouldn't have liked doing it, but there really wouldn't have been much choice."

Of course DeBeers, who stepped in for Slaughter during the TCS finals, could have made a case that he was *de facto* cap-

tain at the time of the win and claimed the money for himself, and Blanchard might have agreed. But that's a moot point considering the actual result.

I posed the following situation to Steve Austin, who is in the midst of a wicked feud with Chris Adams in the USWA. Austin and Adams' ex-wife, Jeannie, have been battling Chris and his current wife, Toni.

"If you were in a Team Challenge Series situation and Adams ended up on your team, would you share the prize money with him?" I asked.

"I wouldn't want to," Austin replied, "but I would. Then I'd try to steal it back from him later. But right is right. Sometimes you can't always do what you want to do. Sometimes you gotta live by a code of honor. That's what this feud is all about."

The point that seems to annoy rulebreakers the most, however, is that Zbyszko wronged other rule-breakers. Thus, the honor among thieves issue.

"I'd bust his head open if he did it to me," Barry Windham said. "Then again, Zbyszko's always been the lowest of the low. Ain't a man in the world that can trust him."

"In this world, certain groups of people go together," noted psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil said. "While certain people might be viewed by the general public as outcasts, there is a portion of the world where they actually belong, a world where certain rules exist. If they do not play by the rules of this world, they become total outcasts, and I do not think a total outcast can survive for very long."

Zbyszko has become a total outcast. Even the worst thieves in wrestling are outraged at what he has done.

Fortunately, there's still time for Zbyszko to reconsider his actions. But I don't think time will change this terrible man. □

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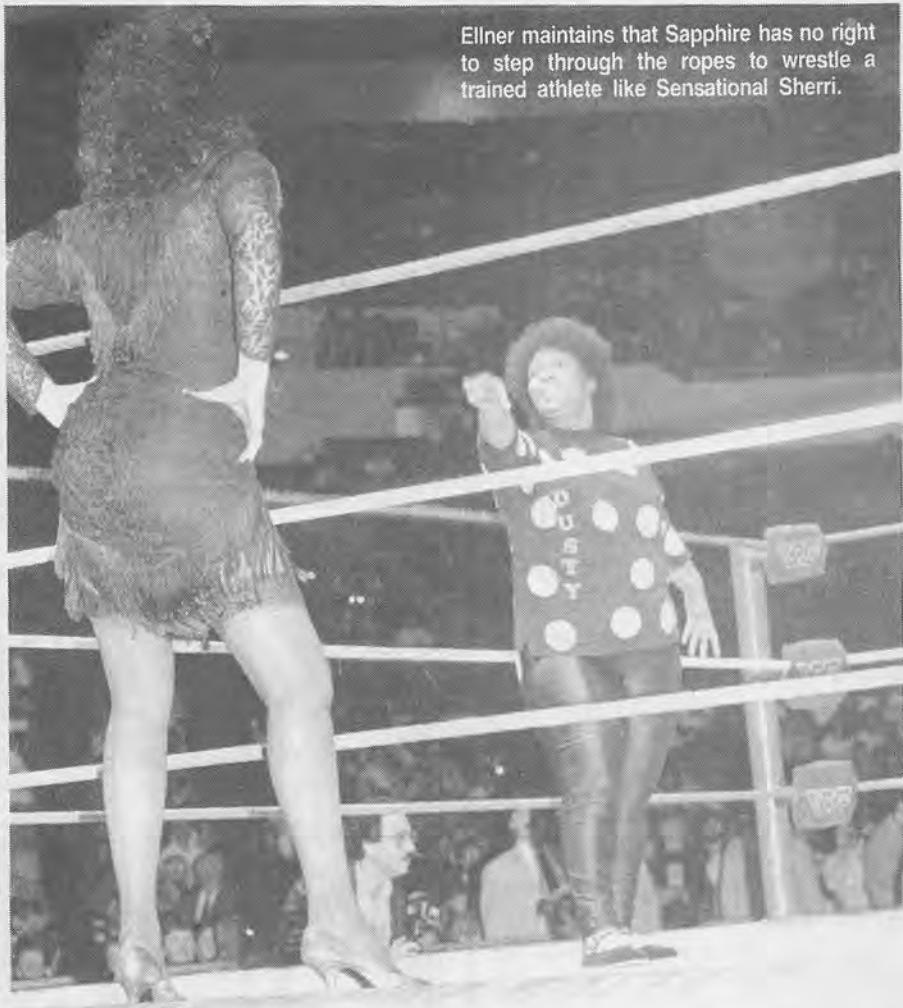
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)

Ellner maintains that Sapphire has no right to step through the ropes to wrestle a trained athlete like Sensational Sherri.



Sapphire's act—literally. She became Dusty's salaried employee, his cheerleader, his spokesperson, his bodyguard, and (God save us) who knows what else. And, because of a feud between her man and Randy Savage, Sapphire came within a splotchmark of actually wrestling Sensational Sherri one on one at SummerSlam.

Had two people ever arrived at the same destination (Philadelphia's Spectrum for SummerSlam '90) via such different routes? For Sapphire to be granted the opportunity to wrestle Sherri is in itself an insult to the sport. It's like allowing the kid who delivers my lunch to edit this magazine.

By definition and accomplishment, Sherri is a pro. She spent years training to refine her craft,

and years in pain learning the grim realities of a ring career. Her reward? Success commensurate with the amount of effort and hard work she contributed. Success in the form of the AWA and WWF World women's championships. Success in the form of complete respect from the media and her peers, male and female. Success in the form of valeting, if she so chooses, for an ex-WWF World champion without fear of ridicule. She paid the band, she can dance all she wants; I have no problem with that.

Sapphire, whether jiggling and giggling with Dusty Rhodes or polishing her diamonds from Ted DiBiase, is a fool, a freak, and a sideshow attraction. Through a long ring career, Rhodes has earned the right to make a fool of

himself; Sapphire remains an amateur fool at best.

Believe me, I have only a passing contempt for Sapphire herself; she is so stupid and provincial that she can't possibly comprehend how silly her behavior looks and sounds. While she paraded about her seat in blissful, bountiful ignorance, she was the prototypical wrestling fan: big, dumb, and fat. But when she ventured from her ringside seat to the ring, she set a dangerous precedent—which is why she must go.

Can you imagine if they allowed every fan who felt capable into the ring to challenge a wrestler? Ask any wrestler who has ever been approached in a bar by some drunken slob intent on proving his manhood. After the wrestler begs the guy to leave him alone, he is finally forced to defend himself, which means the drunken slob will leave the bar via a stretcher or body bag.

Giving Sapphire the kind of opportunity she was given at SummerSlam (and thank God DiBiase stepped in and prevented a slaughter) will encourage every other imbecilic fan with delusions of grandeur to hop into the ring or do something crazy to be noticed. Believe me, I know: I have the letters to prove it. These lunatic fans who watch Sapphire mingling with their heroes are saying: "Heck! I can do that. Next time Lex Luger comes to the ring I think I'll pop him a good one. That ought to impress the promoters."

Ban Sapphire to impress upon the wrestling world the insanity in permitting a fan, without any proper training, to wrestle against professionals. Only something as severe as lifetime banishment will force money-hungry promoters desperate for fresh meat to see the folly of their ways.

Fans should cheer; wrestlers should wrestle. And never the twain should meet. □

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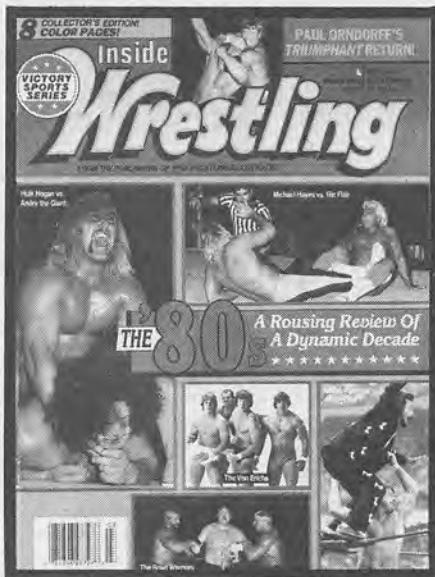
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

with the men having a little fun, too.

The thing is, they stole the show. In the first year that women wrestling personalities were included in the competition, a woman won the whole thing.

Missy Hyatt, the long-legged, full-figured vamp who's made a mush out of countless guys' hearts, won it in a runaway. Surprised? Not me. I've seen women with control over men before, but Missy takes it beyond the legal limits.

The problem with Missy, however, and the problem I've always had with Missy, is that she doesn't have the brains to match the body. She is stamped right out of the classic "dumb blonde" tradition.

Men, what's wrong with you? Don't you appreciate a worldly woman with a brain to match her body? Elizabeth, who can match

wits with any man in the game, has the looks and she has the mind. Folks, that's sexy.

The problem is, Elizabeth finished fourth, way behind Missy. The margin of victory, in my mind, was a matter of inches. But I'm sure Elizabeth has too much class (something Missy's never heard of) to put up a stink.

Which brings us to the men who finished in the poll. Ladies, this time you did yourselves proud. I was pretty sure Lex Luger would wipe out the competition, but it didn't happen.

Sting, just the kind of guy you'd love to bring home to the folks, finished second behind Missy and, therefore, gets the title of "Wrestling's Sexiest Man."

The NWA World champion, the man who wouldn't stab *anyone* in the back, got his just due. I'm not sure that's the reason you picked him, but it's a pretty good reason



Hunter was sure that Lex Luger (being interviewed by Jim Ross) would be voted wrestling's sexiest star, but she's glad Sting beat out Luger on the men's side.

nonetheless. Nothing ruins a beautiful exterior like an ugly interior.

Naturally, Sting was his usual modest self when informed of his high finish. He gave credit to Luger, he didn't have anything bad to say about Missy (although he could have), and he didn't complain about women being allowed in the competition. Heck, that must've been the biggest burn of all.

The rest of the top 10:

Luger . . . Elizabeth (Again: Why wasn't she number one?) . . . Stan Lane (Here's a man with style and the looks to go with it.) . . . Woman (Crass, no class, but a pretty little bit of a floozy) . . . Scott Steiner (Now *this* guy is sexy. Sometime during last night, he took his shirt off and started dancing on a table. Every female heart in the place started beating about 10 steps faster) . . . The Ultimate Warrior (Okay, I guess, if you like animals. Personally, I like to see what a man has beneath his skin, and the Warrior's never let us catch a glimpse. Who is this man? Well, I suppose there's something sexy about mystery, too.) . . . Brian Pillman and Rick Morton (Put 'em together. Cute, decent bodies, loyal, but a little too ordinary for my tastes, which is not to insult either of them for their excellent skills inside the ring. But walk down any city street and you'll see hundreds of guys like them. There's something to be said about normalcy, but the man of the '90s doesn't quite fit this mold.)

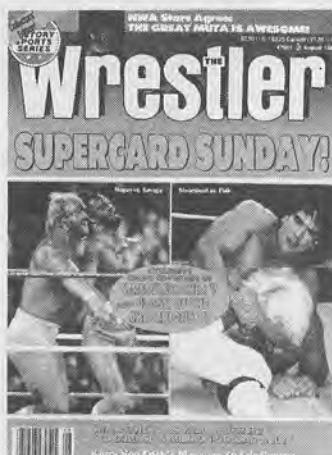
I have one final comment about the voting, and, yes, it's another gripe that Elizabeth didn't win.

TV Guide recently conducted a similar poll to determine the sexiest woman on television. Kathy Lee Gifford won, but the accompanying article pointed out that one woman from the wrestling world received two write-in votes.

And it wasn't Missy Hyatt. □

A TRIPLE-DOSE OF HOT ACTION!

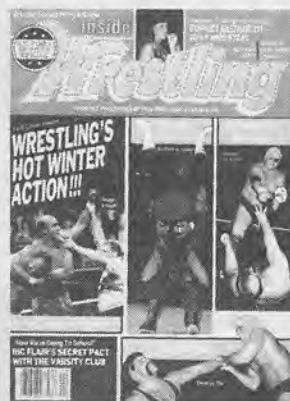
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◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #2

A dynamic special section in the April 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling* offered four pages of FULL-COLOR coverage of: The Survivor Series, SuperClash III, Battlestarr 88, and Clash of the Champions—Season's Beatings. Plus, an in-depth analysis places all these cards in historical perspective.

◀ SPECIAL ISSUE #3

The December 1989 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling* called it "Wrestling's Hottest Summer Ever!"—and indeed it was! In that issue, readers saw four pages of glorious FULL-COLOR coverage of the NWA's Great American Bash and the WWF's SummerSlam '89. A very special editorial section offered exclusive in-depth analysis of both events.

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LARRY ZBYSZKO

(Continued from page 29)



The Trooper dropkicks Mike Enos (above); not only were Enos and Wayne Bloom ripped off by Zbyszko, they lost the AWA World tag title to Trooper and D.J. Peterson. Zbyszko (below, accompanied by Tully Blanchard) boasts of his supposed greatness.



realized from the start that he could keep every cent of the prize money.

"Nobody worked harder at this than me," Zbyszko gloated. "I had to keep this team together. As far as I'm concerned, I was the owner of this team and they were my players. They were getting paid fairly by the federation. This prize money is a little something

extra for my hard work."

A little something extra? Doesn't sound very fair to us. Then again, "fair" isn't a word in Zbyszko's dictionary.

"Hey, spudhead, *life* isn't fair," the AWA World champion cackled. "Unless you're Larry Zbyszko, that is. Hahaha!" □

BACK ISSUES OF



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November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

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April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

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September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

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December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

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March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbysko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbysko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Stories include: Bonus 4-page color section! Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

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April 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Travis.

May 1990/Stories include: Sting & Ultimate, Bossman, Von Erichs, Hogan.

June 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Rockers, Koloffs, Horsemen, Flair-Luger.

July 1990/Stories include: Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Dooms, Blanchard.

August 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Warrior, Embry, Demolition, Dooms.

September 1990/Stories include: Ultimate, Haynes, Luger, Dooms, Tugboat.

October 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Ultimate, Flair, Rich.

November 1990/Stories include: Luger & Sting, Beefcake, Race, Steiners.

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**STING**
(2) NWA World champion
- 2—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(1) WWF World champion
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
(3) U.S. champion

NWA

- 1—**STING**
(1) 260, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**LEX LUGER**
(2) 268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**
(3) 243, Minneapolis, MN

WWF

- 1—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(1) 280, Queens, NY
- 2—**KERRY VON ERICH**
(15) 260, Denton, TX
- 3—**HULK HOGAN**
(-) 302, Venice Beach, CA

AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(1) 248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**B. BRIAN BLAIR**
(-) 235, Tampa, FL
- 3—**BARON VON RASCHKE**
(3) 271, Berlin, Germany

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2—**SID VICIOUS**
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated
- 3—**EARTHQUAKE**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**DOOM**
(1) NWA World tag team champions
- 2—**THE HART FOUNDATION**
(6) WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
(5) U.S. tag team champions
- 4—**DEMOLITION (SMASH, CRUSH, AX)**
(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title
- 5—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
(2) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag title

- 4—**KERRY VON ERICH**
(-) WWF I-C champion
- 5—**HULK HOGAN**
(-) No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 6—**RIC FLAIR**
(5) No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
(7) AWA World champion

- 4—**SID VICIOUS**
(9) 318, West Memphis, AK
- 5—**ARN ANDERSON**
(5) 249, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**STAN HANSEN**
(-) 322, Borger, TX
- 7—**MARK CALLOUS**
(4) 320, Dallas, TX

- 4—**RICK RUDE**
(3) 246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 5—**CURT HENNIG**
(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**EARTHQUAKE**
(4) 462, Montreal, Quebec
- 7—**RANDY SAVAGE**
(-) 245, Sarasota, FL

- 4—**HARLEY RACE**
(-) 268, Kansas City, MO
- 5—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
(4) 248, Appleton, MN
- 6—**BUCK ZUMHOFER**
(11) 222, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—**COL. DeBEERS**
(9) 248, Cape Town, S. Africa

- 4—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 6—**BIG BOSSMAN**
Last month: unrated
- 7—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

- 4—**RICK RUDE**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—**ARN ANDERSON**
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 6—**CURT HENNIG**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 7—**EDDIE GILBERT**
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated

- 6—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
(4) U.S. tag team champions
- 7—**BRIAN PILLMAN & TOM ZENK**
(-) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 8—**TRACEY SMOTHERS & STEVE ARMSTRONG**
(8) No. 2 contenders: U.S. tag title
- 9—**D.J. PETERSON & THE TROOPER**
(-) AWA World tag team champions
- 10—**AL MADRIL & RICKY SANTANA**
(-) PNW tag team champions

- 8—**RICK RUDE**
(6) No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 9—**CURT HENNIG**
(4) No. 1 contender: I-C title
- 10—**ARN ANDERSON**
(8) NWA TV champion
- 11—**VIC STEAMBOAT**
(13) ICW champion

- 8—**BIG VAN VADER**
(14) 375, Denver, CO
- 9—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
(-) 226, Cincinnati, OH
- 10—**BARRY WINDHAM**
(8) 263, Sweetwater, TX
- 11—**JUNKYARD DOG**
(6) 305, Charlotte, NC

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
(9) 246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**BIG BOSSMAN**
(8) 358, Cobb County, GA
- 10—**THE WARLORD**
(-) 360, Chicago, IL
- 11—**JIMMY SNUKA**
(-) 250, Fiji Islands

- 8—**JONNIE STEWART**
(5) 242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 9—**TOMMY JAMMER**
(6) 245, San Diego, CA
- 10—**CURTIS HUGHES**
(12) 308, Kansas City, KS
- 11—**D.J. PETERSON**
(8) 245, St. Joseph, MO

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 9—**BILL DUNDEE**
Last month: unrated
- 10—**SCOTT STEINER**
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- 11—**DUSTY RHODES**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular

- 8—**DINO BRAVO**
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

- 9—**STEVE AUSTIN**
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

- 10—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated

- 11—**BARRY WINDHAM**
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated

- 12—**THE GRAPPLER**
(-) PNW champion
- 13—**SID VICIOUS**
(-) No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 14—**EARTHQUAKE**
(11) No. 4 contender: WWF title
- 15—**JOHN TATUM**
(14) USWA Southwestern champ

- 12—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
(7) 253, Brandon, FL
- 13—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
(10) 245, Syracuse, NY
- 14—**EL GIGANTE**
(-) 435, Argentina
- 15—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
(-) 226, Marietta, GA

- 12—**TED DiBIASE**
(11) 247, Omaha, NE
- 13—**DINO BRAVO**
(6) 256, Montreal, Quebec
- 14—**BAD NEWS BROWN**
(10) 280, New York, NY
- 15—**THE BARBARIAN**
(12) 295, New York, NY

- 12—**THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**
(15) 330, Moscow, Russia
- 13—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
(13) 275, Moscow, Russia
- 14—**MIKE ENOS**
(-) 252, Minneapolis, MN
- 15—**JAKE MILLIMAN**
(-) 220, Minneapolis, MN

- 12—**RICK STEINER**
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
- 13—**JUNKYARD DOG**
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular
- 14—**TUGBOAT**
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 15—**EL GIGANTE**
Last month: unrated

- 12—**TED DiBIASE**
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated
- 13—**BAD NEWS BROWN**
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated
- 14—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
- 15—**THE GRAPPLER**
Last month: unrated

- 11—**THE ROCKERS**
(7) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title
- 12—**THE UNDERTAKERS**
(14) ICW tag team champions
- 13—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
(9) No. 1 contenders: AWA tag title
- 14—**BRIAN LEE & DON HARRIS**
(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title
- 15—**THE ORIENT EXPRESS**
(13) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended August 31, 1990

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Akira Tae & Shinichi Nakano)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuhiro Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Jumbo Tsuruta & Kabuki)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuhiro Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(January 1, 1990; elimination final over Bull Nakano; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Takahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

AKIRA HOKUTO & SUZUKA MINAMI

(February 7, 1990; from Grizzly Iwamoto & Aja Kong; Osaka, Japan)

AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFER

(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(April 8, 1990; from Mr. Saito; St. Paul, MN)

*AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON

(August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: NICK BUSICK

(May 17, 1990; tournament final over Mike Golden; Lawrenceville, GA)

ICW CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT

(July 24, 1990; from Tony Atlas; Middletown, NY)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKERS

(March 31, 1990; tournament final over Phil Apollo & Eric Sbraccia; Charlton, MA)

IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MADUSA MICELI

(September 14, 1989; tournament final over Beastie; Kumamoto, Japan)

*IWGP CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU

(August 19, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE GREAT MUTA & MASA CHONO

(April 27, 1990; from Mr. Saito & Shinya Hashimoto; Tokyo Bay, Japan)

*IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE PEGASUS KID

(August 19, 1990; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)

LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MISTY BLUE SIMMES & HEIDI LEE MORGAN

(March 13, 1990; tournament final over Bad Girl & Black Venus; Laughlin, NV)

NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: STING

(July 7, 1990; from Ric Flair; Baltimore, MD)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOOM

(May 19, 1990; from Rick & Scott Steiner; Washington, DC)

* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER

(August 4, 1990; for held up title over Scotty the Body; Portland, OR)

*PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

AL MADRIL & RICKY SANTANA

(August 25, 1990; for vacant title over Steve Doll & Scott Norton; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(March 17, 1990; from Ricky Santana; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1990; for vacant title over Mitsuhiro Misawa; Matsudo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Jumbo Tsuruta & Kabuki)

PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MIKE GRAHAM & JOE GOMEZ

(May 8, 1990; from Robert Fuller & Kendall Windham; Tampa, FL)

*PWF (FLORIDA) LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(August 2, 1990; from Lou Perez; Tampa, FL)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

*U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(August 24, 1990; from The Midnight Express; East Rutherford, NJ)

USWA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Snowman)

USWA SOUTHWESTERN CHAMPION: JOHN TATUM

(July 4, 1990; from Bill Dundee; Dallas, TX)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Brian Lee & Don Harris)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: ANGEL OF DEATH

(July 13, 1990; by forfeit from Kerry Von Erich; Dallas, TX)

WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(July 7, 1990; from Leo Burke; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR

(June 6, 1990; from Chicky Starr & Leo Burke; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

*WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RON STARR

(August 25, 1990; from Hurricane Castillo; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)

*WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LANCE IDOL & RICK VALENTINE

(August 18, 1990; from The Super Medics; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(March 31, 1990; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MONSTER RIPPER

(July 7, 1990; for vacant title over Candi Devine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

*WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(August 27, 1990; from Curt Hennig; Philadelphia, PA)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(April 1, 1990; from Hulk Hogan; Toronto, Ontario)

*WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRET HART & JIM NEIDHART

(August 27, 1990; from Demolition; Philadelphia, PA)

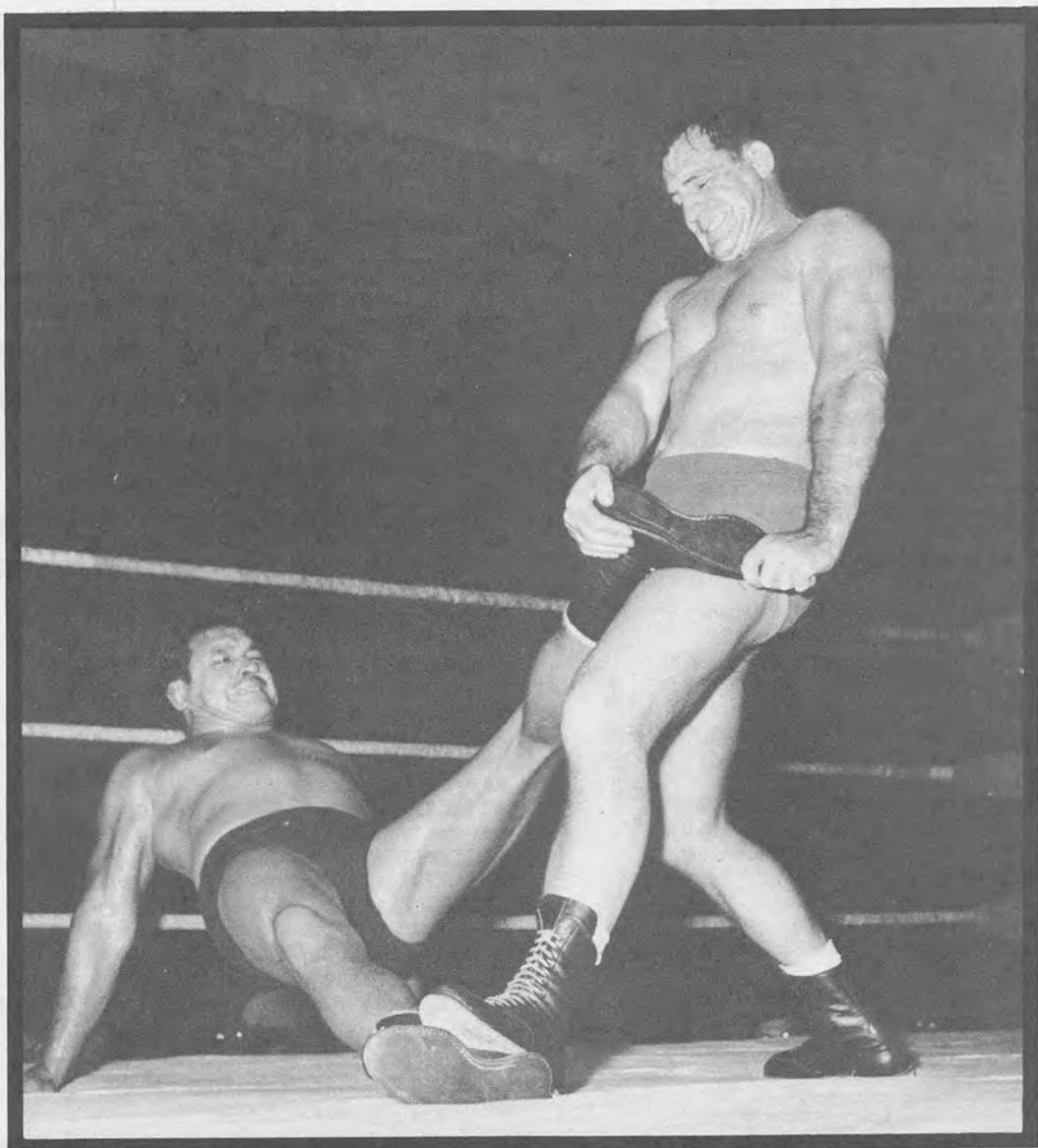
WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

“BATTLE OF THE SCIENTIFIC LEGENDS”



PAT O' CONNOR VS. ENRIQUE TORRES
October 24, 1963

Former NWA World champion Pat O'Connor twists the left leg of Enrique Torres during a classic scientific encounter in Kansas City, Kansas. Unlike most matches in today's mat world, O'Connor and Torres competed to a 40-minute draw without punches, kicks, or any rules being broken. Recently, the entire wrestling world mourned when O'Connor, who held the NWA title with pride from 1959 to 1961, died on August 16, 1990, following a prolonged bout with liver cancer.

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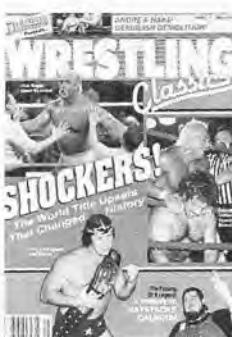
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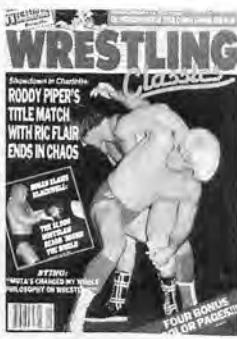
Nov. 1989: Exclusive Photos Of A Lifetime! Hulk Hogan—From The Cradle To The Throne. Plus: Rhodes (1982), Flair (1980), Snuka (1981), Sullivan (1973), Rich-Sawyer (1984), Lord Al Hays (1973), Classic Ratings (1979). Future Classics: Savage, Steamboat.



March 1990: The Most Vicious Wrestlers Of Our Time: Terry Funk (1976), Kowalski (1972), Sheik (1974), Brody (1983), Hogan (1980), Blassie (1982), Steele (1973), Abdullah (1982), Hansen (1978). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: AWA Team Series, Valentine-Garvin.



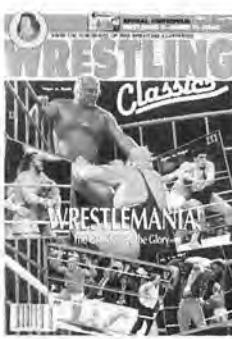
May 1990: Shockers! The World Title Upsets That Changed History: Rich-Race (1981), Koloff-Sammartino (1971), Graham-Sammartino (1977), Andre-Hogan (1988), Thesz-Rogers (1973), Stasiak-Morales (1974), Funk-Brisco (1976). Classic Ratings (1972). Future Classics: Andre & Haku, Zenk.



Jan. 1990: Roddy Piper's Title Match With Ric Flair Ends In Chaos! (1983). Plus: Sammartino (1977), Von Raschke (1972), Zbyszko (1981), Rhodes (1977), Andre-Ladd (1977), Hogan-Blackwell (1982), Kevin Von Erich (1984). Classic Ratings (1975). Future Classics: Sting, Warrior-Rude.



April 1990: A Decade Of Feuds: Bruno-Zbyszko (1980), Andre-Khan (1981), Backlund-Snuka (1982), Piper-Valentine (1984), Slaughter-Sheik (1984), Flair-Nikita (1985), Hogan-Orndorff (1986). Classic Ratings (1980). Future Classics: Dugan, Luger.



July 1990: WrestleMania! The Grandeur & The Glory: An In-Depth Look At WrestleMania I-V. Classic WrestleMania VI Foldout: Hogan-Ultimate Warrior. Classic Ratings (1985). Future Classics: Skyscrapers-Road Warriors, Lawler-D.

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